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OPINION METER

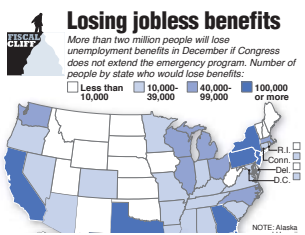
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Do you believe that the world will end on Dec. 21, 2012, as allegedly predicted by a Mayan calendar?

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Fiscal cliff talks hit a lull with the GOP saying they have their own tax plan.

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Filipino workers now exempt from FICA

➤ **Exemption to last only up to Dec. 31, 2014**
➤ **Fitial, Kilili, workers, employers hail IRS announcement**

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Christmas will be a bit merrier for thousands of transitional Filipino workers and their employers following the U.S. Internal Revenue Service's announcement that Filipinos working in the CNMI need not pay federal taxes between now and Dec. 31, 2014, drawing positive responses from CNMI officials, employers, and employees yesterday. But concerns about these taxes remain.

The Fitial administration has said the federal taxes on Filipino and Korean workers could result in \$24 million in annual "illegal taxes" that could have been circulating in the local economy.

IRS, in its Dec. 17 announcement, however, said that employers must withhold and pay Federal Insurance Contribution Act, or FICA, taxes on wages paid to Filipino workers who do not hold H-2 status in the CNMI "after December 31, 2014"—the end of the immigration transition period.

FICA covers Social Security and Medicare taxes.

"This will be a big relief to us. I have almost \$25 deduction in my paycheck every payday. I could have used that for food, gas for the car, CUC [Common-

See FICA on Page 4



SANTA CLAUS IS IN TOWN

"Santa Claus" brings cheers not only to 8-year-old Jannah Callejo, a student at Oleai Elementary School, but also to other residents and tourists visiting DFS Galleria in Garapan on Sunday night. In keeping with its holiday tradition, DFS Galleria has once again brought "Santa Claus" to its store wherein children and adults could have their photos taken with him on his white sleigh with giant Christmas trees in the background.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Ayuyu detained pending trial

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona yesterday ordered the continued detention of Sen.

Juan M. Ayuyu (R-Rota) pending his trial on new charges of obstruction of justice, tampering with witnesses, and attempting to destroy evidence related to his first case—attempting to smuggle endangered fruit bats.



Ayuyu

Manglona ruled that the prosecution has met the burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence to con-

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Ninth Circuit orders new sentencing for Tim Villagomez

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has ordered the federal court to conduct a new sentencing for former lieutenant gov-

ernor Timothy P. Villagomez, who is currently in federal prison after being found guilty of defrauding the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. through needless purchases of a de-scaling chemical.

The Ninth Circuit vacated Vil-

lagomez's sentence after finding that the U.S. District Court for the NMI made a mistake in calculating his sentence.

With the new sentencing, there is a possibility that the former

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Villagomez



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Local

PSS: Many 5-year-olds out of formal preschool program

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Hundreds of 5-year-olds in the community are believed to be out of school and not enrolled in any formal preschool program that would prepare them for first grade, resulting in a delay in their cognitive development, according to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.

Because of this, the Public School System is developing

a Comprehensive Service Plan that would cover not only children from 3 years old onwards but from birth, she said.

» Comprehensive service plan from birth in the works

Each school year, PSS accommodates roughly over 600 kindergarten students on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. These are 5-year-olds who receive formal education on campus. Only a few schools, however, have full-day sessions for kindergarteners; the rest only have half-day sessions.

"The biggest challenge for us

is really trying to find the funds to make kindergarten available to all children. Right now, we have many kids that are not in the program because we lack the classrooms and teachers. Because of this, 50 percent of 5-year-olds are out there somewhere and probably not engaged in any formal preschool program. So when they enter PSS at age 6, they are already behind in terms of primary cognitive development," Sablan explained Tuesday.



Sablan

She disclosed that she recently shared the plan for Commonwealth students at the National Governors' Association meeting earlier this month.

Without the support of local leaders, however, the mission to prepare all students and provide a seamless transition in their education would be impossible to achieve, she said.

The kindergarten program sources its funding from local appropriation.

Besides the K-12th program,

PSS also administers the preschool programs Early Intervention and Head Start. The commissioner revealed that from the initial Comprehensive Service Plan for kindergarten to 3rd grade, PSS decided to shift the initiative from the birth of the child.

To successfully enforce this plan, Sablan said that PSS has to work with the Commonwealth Health Center's Maternal Child Healthcare and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs' Child Care programs, which both cater to young kids.

"We need to make sure that these babies, by the time they

enter preschool programs, they are fully prepared because it's all about readiness," said Sablan, who reiterated her idea of having one educational system in the CNMI that would include postsecondary education.

Sablan said she will prepare school principals and administrators to become early childhood educators. "Do they have any background that speaks to the development of children looking at the cognitive, physical, social, and emotional aspects? We need to know so we can train and inform them," added the commissioner.

Man'amko lift spirit of holiday shoppers

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

Senior citizens at the Aging Center serenaded shoppers and handed out candies at the Joeten Center in Susupe Tuesday night.

Sixteen *man'amko*, accompanied by program coordinator Walter Manglona, donned Santa hats and red shirts to add holiday flavor to their performance. The group sang traditional Christmas hits in Chamorro, Carolinian, and English.

Manglona, congregates Ben Laniyo and Jesus Pangelinan, as well as local musician Lino Olopai played the ukulele while Teddy Guiao came dressed as Santa Claus.

The *man'amko* carolers also gave away mini candy canes and other sweet treats to the store's holiday shoppers.

Maria T. Salinas, Saipan Seniors Advisory Council president and one of the carolers, said Tuesday that they chose Joeten Center in Susupe as their venue

since the store has showed great support for the *man'amko*.

The store is one of several establishments that carry the *man'amko*'s Christmas CD, which costs \$15 each and is selling fast, said Salinas.

She disclosed that the *man'amko*, through the stores and other sellers, already sold most of the 500 copies of the CDs that were made in efforts to raise funds to improve programs and activities at the Aging Center.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Senior citizens from the Aging Center sing yuletide carols to shoppers at Joeten Center in Susupe on Tuesday night.

"Our caroling is also a way to boost the sales for the CD," Salinas told *Saipan Tribune*. "By making our presence felt

at Joeten store, we can encourage people to buy our album and greet them Merry Christmas as well."

Salinas said the carolers rehearsed for two weeks and their efforts paid off when shoppers thanked them, with some even donating a few dollars since they cannot afford to buy the CD.

Tanapag resident Carmen Andon, who was among the shoppers at the store on Tuesday evening, said the elderly singing Christmas carols at the store is timely this season.

Andon's daughter, 6-year-old Isa, enjoyed the free candy canes.

"We hope this activity continues every year and I wish each one of the *man'amko* the best of health," said Andon, a regular Joeten shopper.

According to Salinas, the group also visited the Commonwealth Health Center on Monday, singing Christmas songs to the staff at the information and billing section and the dialysis center.

"Christmas happens only once a year, so we want to encourage the *man'amko* to enjoy the holiday and think happy thoughts," she said.

Salinas thanked the community, particularly Joeten for supporting their fundraising activity by selling the Christmas album.

"I hope they sell all the CDs," she added.

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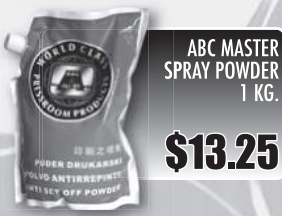
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Wiseman stops depositions of SDLLC representatives

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has placed in abeyance or taken off calendar until further notice the depositions of Saipan Development LLC adviser Kenneth Mahmood and consultant Jason Osborne.

In an order issued late Monday afternoon, Wiseman reiterated his concern about conducting discovery in this particular case while a motion to dismiss was still pending.

"Although the court acknowledges the briefs submitted by the parties, the court sees no reason to change its position from its previous ruling, and therefore will not, at this time, entertain the parties' arguments made with respect to the rules of civil procedure that govern discovery," said Wiseman in granting SDLLC's motion for protective order.

SDLLC filed a motion to prevent Mahmood and Osborne from attending depositions that, according to them, were filed prematurely, in connection with a taxpayers' lawsuit on a sole-source, \$190.8-million power purchase agreement.

The plaintiffs—the Senate and Reps. Janet U. Maratita

(IR-Saipan) and Ray Anthony N. Yumul (IR-Saipan) through counsel Ramon K. Quichocho—opposed the motion by asserting that the Superior Court should not issue a protective order because the Delaware-based SDLLC offers no valid grounds for such an order.

Mahmood and Osborne, consultant for Allegiance Capital Corp., were subpoenaed to testify at a deposition on Dec. 17 and 18, respectively. The Delaware firm bagged the 25-year power purchase deal.

Deposition refers to a process of taking testimony of a witness outside of court.

In a motion for protective order filed in court on Thursday, SDLLC counsel William M. Fitzgerald said a protective order is warranted in this case as plaintiffs filed the deposition notices in contravention of civil procedure rules.

The Senate, Maratita, and Yumul are suing Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and SDLLC in a bid to invalidate the 25-year power purchase agreement.

On Monday, Quichocho asked the court to issue a bench warrant against Mahmood for failing to appear for deposition.



Wiseman

Lack of funding halts 50th anniversary bash for HJHS

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Hopwood Junior High School's golden anniversary celebration has been scaled down due to lack of funds, according to principal Jonas Barcinas.

From the initial plan of holding a grand celebration for the school's 50th anniversary, its leadership team decided to just mark the occasion with a simple ceremony.

Barcinas earlier announced that the anniversary celebration this month will highlight "50 Years In Review," a showcase of the school and students' memorabilia and a tribute to the person for whom the institution was named after, Adm. Herbert Gladstone Hopwood, a four-star admiral in the U.S. Navy who served as commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet from 1958 to 1960.

In preparation for the school's 50th anniversary, committees from logistics to entertainment were initially created to seek the school's alumni's support for the event. The school was also in communication with the

former admiral's grandson who lives in Pennsylvania on the possibility of attending the celebration on Saipan.

Barcinas said yesterday that the anniversary will now be combined with the school's Christmas Party tomorrow, Dec. 21.

"Our event is this Friday but due to funding issues, we are merging it with our Christmas program and [it will be] just a simple celebration," Barcinas told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the celebration is expected to be graced only by school staff.

Hopwood has produced many graduates over the years, some of whom are now doctors, lawyers, teachers, businesspersons, and legislators. Barcinas earlier said that this is something the community should be proud of.

Meantime, Barcinas hailed the induction of the Student Council's new officers early this month. Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexander Castro swore in the new officers at the school cafeteria.

The Stuco officers will serve as leaders and voices for the institution's 1,200 students this school year.



NEW PHONEBOOKS

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial receives the first 2013 CNMI Phonebooks from IT&E marketing manager Hans Mickelson, IT&E product manager Veronica Acosta, IT&E Business Account manager Julie Manglona, and IT&E marketing coordinator Brad E. Ruzsala. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Same suspect in 2 robbery cases

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Five days after an unidentified man assaulted a businesswoman and her 16-year-old daughter during a robbery near Garapan Elementary School on Dec. 11, the same suspect also beat up and robbed another woman in Susupe.

Police spokesman Jason Tarkong said yesterday that, on Dec. 16 at 12:15am, police officers responded

to a robbery incident that occurred by Dollar Days Wholesale, Beach Road, Susupe.

Tarkong said the victim, a 36-year-old Chinese woman, was walking home when the suspect punched her in the head, causing her to fall to the ground.

The suspect beat up the victim, grabbed her red purse, then ran to a pickup truck that sped south on Beach Road.

The vehicle was described as a red extra cab with large tires and noisy

muffler.

The robber managed to get the victim's "I Love Saipan" handbag containing \$50 cash, a comb, and a black Samsung cellphone.

The suspect was described as about 5'8" to 5'10" tall, skinny, about 150 to 160 lbs, and with dark complexion. At the time, he had no shirt and was wearing only a pair of short pants.

Tarkong said police believe that the Dec. 16 robbery is related to the Dec. 11 robbery that happened in front of Capitol Hotel near Capitol Bowling

and Garapan Elementary School.

The victims and witnesses have the same description of the suspect and the vehicle in both cases.

Minhong Ji, 45, of Jiangsu, China, sustained a facial bone fracture on the right cheek and bruises on her arms. Her daughter was injured in the mouth.

The suspect managed to run off with Ji's bag containing \$800 cash, a Sony digital camera, cell phone, her passport, car keys, wallet, driver's licenses for the CNMI, Guam, and China, ATM cards, and credit cards.

Ji and her daughter were heading back to Capitol Hotel after shopping in western Garapan and were about 20 meters from the hotel when the suspect appeared from behind them.

Without saying a word, the suspect repeatedly punched Ji in the face, knocking her out. The suspect then punched her daughter in the mouth.

The robber grabbed Ji's bag and ran toward a red pickup truck that was parked at the Garapan Elementary School's fence line. The truck sped off toward the western Garapan area.

FBI, DPS complete processing of murdered couple's car

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Public Safety had just completed processing the car owned by a couple murdered in their San Vicente home a couple of weeks ago.

Police spokesman Jason Tarkong said yesterday that DPS is currently awaiting the results of the examination of the vic-

tims' car, a white 2010 Honda CRV.

Tarkong said eyewitnesses saw the car speeding away from the victims' residence in San Vicente Thursday, Dec. 6, 2012, between 11:45am to 12pm.

The car was found abandoned at the Micro Beach parking lot in front of a

pavilion Saturday night, Dec. 8, 2012. Its doors were locked and the key or keys missing.

A filing of a child neglect case led police last Dec. 8 to the couple's San Vicente residence where the victims' bodies were discovered. The victims were later identified as Jun Li Yang, 50,

and his wife, Jing "Emma" Liu, 40.

"DPS is requesting anyone who may have been by the Micro Beach area or within western Garapan that Thursday afternoon and who may have seen the car around that time to please come forward or call the Crime Stoppers hotline," Tarkong said.

Police believe that the suspect or suspects stole the car as their means

of transportation to Micro Beach after killing the couple.

Tarkong also disclosed that police's canvassing near the crime scene revealed eyewitnesses who saw two Asian males walking on the gravel road in the direction of the victims' residence, a few days prior to police's discovery of the bodies. **(Ferdie De La Torre)**

TIM

From Page 1

lieutenant governor would face more jail time.

Ninth Circuit Judges Mary M. Schroeder and Consuelo M. Callahan issued the decision. Judge N. Randy Smith concurred in all but part two of the majority's disposition.

In granting the U.S. government's cross-appeal, the Ninth Circuit judges ruled that the district court erred in finding that a four-level increase for Villagomez for participating in high-level public corruption would be double counting when combined with his

base level of 14, which was based on his status as a public official.

The judges said that in calculating the sentencing guidelines range, "double counting" is allowed when the increases account for distinct harms.

The appellate court also upheld the district court's rulings on the appeal of Villagomez and his co-defendants, former Commerce Secretary James A. Santos and his wife, Joaquina V. Santos.

Villagomez and the Santos couple had argued that they were deprived of their right to a public trial when the public was excluded from the courtroom during *voir dire*.

Through *voir dire* an attorney can chal-

lenge a prospective juror "for cause" if that person says or otherwise expresses bias against the attorney's case.

The defendants also contend that the district court abused its discretion by denying their post-trial motion for an evidentiary hearing on their allegations of juror bias.

The Ninth Circuit judges disagreed. They ruled that the defendants forfeited their right to a public trial by failing to timely object to the closure of the courtroom during *voir dire*.

The judges noted that the defendants did not object to any closure during *voir dire* and did not complain about the total closure of the courtroom during *voir dire* until more than a year after trial.

They said the defendants knew or should have known of any closure at the time it happened. The judges said the defendants' lawyers also knew or should have known of the closure.

"Even assuming that the first three elements of the plain error test are met—i.e., that the proceedings involved error, the error is plain, and the error affected the defendants' substantial rights—we have "the discretion to remedy the error—discretion which ought to be exercised only if the error seriously affects the fairness, integrity, or public reputation of the judicial proceedings," the judges said.

The judges declined to exercise that discretion because the defendants point

to nothing in the record suggesting that closure led to any unfairness in the jury selection or deviation from established procedures, affected the public interest in the administration of justice, or somehow made the jurors less attuned to their sense of responsibility or the importance of their function.

The Ninth Circuit judges also ruled that the district court properly denied the defendants' post-trial motion for an evidentiary hearing due to alleged juror bias.

The judges ruled that the district court did not err in finding that the jurors were honest in their answers about their relationship with the defendants, attorneys, and witnesses when asked.

AYUYU

From Page 1

tinue detaining Ayuyu pending trial.

Manglona remanded the 48-year-old Ayuyu into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

The judge agreed with assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe that Ayuyu poses a serious risk that he will obstruct or attempt to obstruct justice or threaten or attempt to threaten witnesses or intimidate witnesses.

Manglona said the prosecution has also met the burden of proof that Ayuyu

has continued to disregard the law.

Manglona cited the senator's conduct when he called on the cell phone Ryan James Inos Manglona, his co-defendant in the first case, despite a pre-trial release order prohibiting him from contacting the co-defendant.

The judge stated that if she allows Ayuyu's pre-trial release, she will require him to submit to a drug test.

On Tuesday, Manglona ordered Ayuyu to submit to a drug test after the prosecution claimed that they have information that the senator has been using illegal drugs.

Yesterday, however, Manglona said

that she would no entertain the test results and directed the U.S. Probation Office not to divulge the results.

Manglona cited a Ninth Circuit ruling that addresses random drug testing for pre-trial release and other issues. Based on the case law, there are three grounds that would support such a drug test—consent, probable cause, and totality of circumstances, Manglona said.

The judge noted that Ayuyu did not consent to the test.

Defense attorney Joaquin Torres said the senator asserted his right not to consent to the drug test and that asserting

such a right does not mean he lied to a probation officer.

Torres admitted that Ayuyu called Ryan Manglona on the cell phone last Nov. 21 but that only to greet him "happy Thanksgiving" and to talk about a funeral matter.

Torres said the alleged tampering of witnesses issue occurred prior to this new case.

Torres said that since Ayuyu has been on pre-trial release in the first case, there is no evidence that he violated his release conditions.

Federal agents arrested Ayuyu Monday afternoon after a federal grand jury

handed down a new indictment charging him with conspiring to obstruct an official proceeding, obstructing an official proceeding, tampering with a witness, suborning perjury, attempting to prevent testimony of a witness, obstructing the due administration of justice, and attempting to destroy or remove seized property.

Ayuyu pleaded not guilty.

Ayuyu is currently under indictment for violations of the Endangered Species Act and the Lacey Act for his role in possessing and transporting eight federally protected Mariana fruit bats on Oct. 17, 2010.

FICA

From Page 1

wealth Utilities Corp.], house rental payment. I am hoping they will also refund us, those that we already contributed," Francisca Bergonia, 49, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Bergonia said she and her colleagues started having FICA tax deductions in November 2011.

'No refund'

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial welcomed the IRS announcement but he said he is "not fully satisfied with this proposed settlement" because "it does not agree to refund the illegal taxes already collected, exempt similarly situated Korean nationals and their employers, or resolve long-term exemption from this taxation."

"We are going to continue to press our case for resolution of these remaining issues," Fitial said in a statement.

Filipino workers interviewed yesterday would also like to find out whether they would get back the FICA taxes al-

ready deducted from their checks.

Some, however, want to ask whether they could have the option of continuing to pay FICA taxes.

'Right decision'

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), in a separate statement, said, "The IRS has done exactly what we asked, setting a specific date, December 31, 2014, after which employers must withhold and pay FICA taxes for most Filipino workers in the Northern Mariana Islands.

"We asked that the IRS take into consideration the continuing uncertainty of workers and their employers about workers' immigration status. We asked that the IRS consider congressional intent in the Consolidated Natural Resources Act to minimize adverse economic impacts arising from federal management of immigration. We asked that the IRS set a date certain when Filipino workers and their employers would be subject to FICA taxation," Sablan said.

The delegate said he believes IRS "has now finally made the right deci-

sion" in response to recommendations.

But he said he remains concerned that as long as employers do not have to pay FICA taxes for Filipino workers but do have to pay FICA taxes for U.S. workers, "there is a disincentive to hire U.S. workers."

"For that reason, I am strongly supportive of the recent statements by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service that any employer, seeking to obtain CW status for their foreign employees, who falsely attests that U.S. workers are not available to work, will face severe penalties," Sablan added.

'We could take on IRS'

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the Fitial administration is pleased with IRS' announcement that they would no longer impose Old-age Survivors, and Disability Insurance, or OASDI, tax on Philippine nationals who are working in the CNMI during the transition period to implementation of full U.S. immigration that is currently scheduled to occur on Jan. 1, 2015.

"This action will have a direct benefit

to both Philippine workers and their employers as it will mean the elimination of a 15.3 percent tax (7.65 percent on both employee and employer)," he said.

The lifting of this tax will also directly benefit the CNMI economy because it was removing millions of dollars each year from the islands and sending it to Washington, D.C. "and thus causing direct harm to the local economies," the administration said.

Fitial also said it was an "unwarranted, ill-advised tax that was in direct conflict with the law, and should never have been imposed."

"Lt. Governor Inos and I have been objecting to this tax since it was announced, and I'm glad that Washington has recognized the absurdity of their actions and have agreed with our argument. Everyone told us that a small island government could not take on the United States Internal Revenue Service, but we knew that we were right, and we were not going to be intimidated," Fitial said.

Settlement discussions

The CNMI sued the IRS early this year but later withdrew it to facilitate direct settlement discussions.

Fitial said the IRS announcement is the result of all of the previous efforts of the administration to return tax revenues that had been improperly retained by the United States.

"Under terms of the Covenant, these funds were to be retained in our local economy to foster growth and offset local government expenses. Instead, these funds were diverted to Washington and acted as a drain on the local economy. Over the past several years, we have been able to return over \$100 million in tax revenues that were improperly diverted to Washington and we still have additional claims to present," he added.

IRS announced the policy change on its website on Dec. 17, 2012. The principal author of the IRS announcement is Don Parkinson of the Office of Associate Chief Counsel-Tax Exempt and Government Entities. Parkinson could be reached at (202) 622-6040 (not a toll-free call).

NMC faculty accuses college president of 'abuse of power'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College's Faculty Senate leadership on Monday formally filed a report with the Board of Regents detailing the reasons behind their no-confidence vote against NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D.

Saipan Tribune learned that 82 percent of faculty members who attended the Dec. 14 assembly passed a "vote of no

confidence" in Hart's leadership because of alleged abuse of power and mismanagement of the college's finances after just a little more than a year in office.

Specifically identified under these allegations are the \$200,000 that the president allegedly spent on travel, reimbursements she collected, sole-source contracts, and new procedures for off-island recruitment.

Sources earlier alleged that

the president spent roughly over \$200,000 for off-island travel last fiscal year, excluding those funded by federal programs. She was also accused of collecting significant amounts of personal reimbursement for meals and incidentals, and changed the college's recruitment procedures that lured off-island recruits with cash upon arrival, two weeks accommodations and rental car—all paid at the expense of NMC.

Hart was also accused of micromanaging the hiring procedures at the college. It was also revealed that there are faculty contracts that were not renewed without cause; that she provides "inequitable" salaries in reference to new hires versus experienced employees; and dishonored a number of existing contracts.

Hart, sources said, was also accused of violating college procurement and CNMI procurement laws pertaining to the use of government-issued vehicles; unethical conduct or conflict of interest of sole-source

contracts; and equipment purchase without proper bidding. Hart was earlier criticized for her involvement in the hiring of her husband as a short-term consultant for the college's new foundation. She was also accused of violating college procurement procedures when she approved the purchase of 10 secondhand tablet/laptop computers from off-island.

Hart also allegedly failed to address concerns of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges in filling the chief financial officer position and the Information Technology director position.

Last Monday, the Faculty Senate leadership and its mem-

bers had a closed-door meeting on campus that lasted more than an hour. Faculty Senate President Amanda Angel-Diaz, however, refused to see this reporter after the meeting.

NMC, in a statement last Monday, denied the allegations. In a separate statement Monday, Hart said that NMC continues to operate in a professional and ethical manner and that the president has an open-door philosophy for all NMC personnel and students.

College sources indicate that the Board of Regents will not take any action or entertain the issues for the moment until it convenes this Friday during its regular board meeting.

House panel shelves action on \$190M power deal resolution

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Judiciary and Government Operations Committee decided Wednesday not to act during this lame duck session on a pending resolution asking the administration to cancel a no-bid, \$190.8-million power purchase agreement, and instead wait for the incoming 18th Legislature to decide on a similar proposal.

This also means Gov. Benigno R. Fitial need not present his position on the 25-year agreement with Saipan Development LLC to the JGO Committee at this time.

Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the JGO Committee, said a taxpayers' lawsuit on the power deal and a preliminary injunction on the 25-year agreement between the

governor, former attorney general Edward Buckingham and Saipan Development LLC, as well as a re-introduction of a resolution impeaching the governor, are "making the matter too complicated" for the lame duck Legislature to make any decision on House Resolution 17-110.

Moreover, even if the JGO panel recommends adoption of Rep. Frank Dela Cruz's (IR-Saipan) resolution, the current majority is not expected to pass it, let alone call for another session before the 17th Legislature holds *sine die*, he said.

"We are holding off action on the resolution and would just wait for the new Legislature to come in," Demapan said in an interview after conducting a JGO meeting in his office.

Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), one of those that attended the JGO panel meeting,

said the committee basically "filed" the resolution.

"That means the resolution is considered 'dead.' The issue is still in court. So basically it allows the court to decide on it. The 18th Legislature can also follow through," he said.

Of the seven members of the JGO Committee, only four showed up Wednesday but Demapan said only three were required to have a quorum. Those present were Demapan, Palacios, Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), and Rep. Ray Yumul (IR-Saipan). Absent were vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), and Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota).

Demapan said because of their decision to file the resolution, the JGO Committee will hold off conducting a public hearing on the resolution.

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Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. Box 501521
Navy Hill - Bldg. N2
Saipan, MP 96950



"Together We Can Build A Future"

PUBLIC NOTICE

The staff and management of OVR will hold its
ANNUAL WELLNESS & REHABILITATION DAY
on Friday, December 21, 2012
from 7:30 am - 4:30 pm.

As a result of this planned activity,
the offices will be closed.

Your understanding will be highly appreciated.

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TTY: (670) 322-6449; E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

***This publication was paid for with federal funds made possible
by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education,
Office of Special Education & Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).***

The Laughing Samoans go on stage tonight at World Resort

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A popular comedy duo of Samoan lineage is on island for the first time to perform live on stage tonight at Saipan World Resort.

The Laughing Samoans is bringing to the island the “Funny Chokers” show, which has toured New Zealand, Australia, United Kingdom, U.S., and Pacific island nations.

Based in Wellington, New Zealand, The Laughing Samoans is touted as one of the most successful live comedy acts in the country and is composed of Eteuati Ete and Tofiga Fepulea’i.

Ete and Fepulea’i revealed in a joint interview yesterday at the KKMP station that The Laughing Samoans came about when Ete did a solo comedy show in 2003, “Laughing With Samoans,” which featured a young comedian, James Nokise, as the opening act and Fepulea’i as the emcee.

The show was a huge hit and Ete believed that Fepulea’i brought something new to the show, prompting the former to expand his show into a two-man act.

“I thought we could work together. We’ve been working together ever since,” said Ete,



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Eteuati Ete and Tofiga Fepulea’i of the comedy duo The Laughing Samoans are flanked by representatives of the major sponsors of their Funny Chokers tour show at the KKMP radio station yesterday morning.

who was born in Samoa and migrated to New Zealand when he was 12.

The show’s name was then trimmed and was adopted as the duo’s name.

The Laughing Samoans, which creates new shows and tours it every year, initially thought that their humor is unique only to Samoans. But Fepulea’i, who was born and

raised in New Zealand, noted how they discovered during their tours that their comedy transcends races and ethnic groups.

“We play characters that we know and understand and people are able to relate to. It’s universal. It’s real, island humor,” said Fepulea’i, who is also a radio announcer in Niu FM station.

“It’s funnier than anything we

think we’ve done before,” said Ete, adding that the brand new show has just come out on DVD.

The show will be at 6pm and 9pm, and tickets cost \$35 per person when purchased in advance and \$40 at the door. Both prices are inclusive of two free drinks.

The duo is excited to be on Saipan for the first time. “We just want to thank everybody for

their support and for getting the jokes that we tell,” added Ete.

Event organizers said “Funny Chokers” is a family oriented comedy show that is part of KKMP Foundation’s efforts to raise funds for the 2013 Marianas March Against Cancer.

KKMP’s Gary Sword said yesterday that the idea to bring The Laughing Samoans sprang from how CNMI soldiers serving alongside their Samoan counterparts in foreign soil would enjoy watching the duo through DVDs.

“It gave them a sense of comfort, especially during Christmas time when they were out there in the war zone. Our soldiers were able to relax with The Laughing Samoans and take their minds off of things around them,” he explained.

The Laughing Samoans’ “Funny Chokers” is sponsored by Marpac, Delta Air Lines, Tan Siu Linn Foundation, Division of Public Health NCD Bureau, Saipan World Resort, Let’s Move Marianas, Division of Environmental Quality’s Coral Reef Initiative, and Blue Continent Communications, Inc.

To buy tickets or for more information, call 287-8145 or 233-5567.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DLNR/DFW-046**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 14, 2013 • TIME: 1:30 P.M.

**“CONSTRUCTION OF EIGHT (8) ANCHORS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE”**

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/S/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DLNR/DFW-045**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 14, 2013 • TIME: 1:00 P.M.

**“FABRICATION OF TEN (10) FISH AGGREGATING DEVICE
(FAD) BUOYS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND
NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE”**

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/S/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-DLNR/DFW-047**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 14, 2013 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**“DEPLOYMENT OF FAD SYSTEM IN CNMI WATERS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE”**

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/S/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP13-JUDICIARY-042**

SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 03, 2013 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

**“CONSULTANT SERVICES IN THE AREAS OF JUDICIAL
ADMINISTRATION AND PERSONNEL FOR THE CNMI
JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE”**

INTERESTED CONSULTANTS MUST ACQUIRE COMPLETE RFP INFORMATION FORM MS. TRACY M. GUERRERO, DIRECTOR OF COURTS, P.O. BOX 502165, SAIPAN, MP 96950, TELEPHONE NO. (670) 236-9807, OR EMAIL AT tracy.guerrero@justice.gov.mp TO OBTAIN DETAILS REGARDING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS RFP.

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THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ CHIEF JUSTICE ALEXANDRO C. CASTRO
CHIEF JUSTICE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ MS. TRACY M. GUERRERO
DIRECTOR OF COURTS

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-CHC-055**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 14, 2013 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

**“PURCHASE OF 5,000 PIECES OF GYM TOWELS FOR
THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION –
IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM”**

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/S/ JUAN N. BABAUTA
CEO, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP.

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ ROXANNE DIAZ
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR

**The U.S. Navy
INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE
in the Mariana Islands
Range Complex
Airspace Draft EA/OEA**

The U.S. Navy has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment/Overseas Environmental Assessment (EA/OEA) to analyze potential environmental impacts from proposed modifications to military training airspace and sea space in the Mariana Islands Range Complex (MIRC).

PROPOSED ACTION:

The Proposed Action is to modify and extend existing military training airspace and sea space within the MIRC. This action is needed to provide a safer and more efficient training environment and to maintain military readiness.

The Navy analyzed three alternatives in the Draft EA/OEA: (1) No Action Alternative – current training activities; (2) Alternative 1 – modify and extend military airspace for public safety and training efficiency; and (3) Alternative 2 – modify and extend military airspace (similar to Alternative 1) and expand the sea space danger zone around Farallon de Medinilla from 10 nautical miles (nm) to 12 nm.

The Navy conducted a thorough assessment to determine the potential effects the Proposed Action and alternatives may have on environmental resources. The draft assessment indicates there would be no significant impact on the environment from proposed modifications to airspace and sea space.

The Navy requests your input!

- Visit www.MIRCAirspaceEA.com to review the Draft EA/OEA and provide comments
- Attend information sessions and provide comments
- Mail written comments to:
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific
Attention: MIRC Airspace EA/OEA Project Manager
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

**Public Open House Information Sessions
5 to 8 p.m.**

Jan. 15, 2013
University of Guam
Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building,
Anthony Leon Guerrero Multi-Purpose Rm. 129
Mangilao, Guam 96923

Jan. 17, 2013
Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe
Saipan, MP 96950

The Navy welcomes and appreciates your comments on the Draft EA/OEA. Comments must be postmarked or received by **Feb. 4, 2013**, for consideration in the Final EA/OEA.

For more information, visit www.MIRCAirspaceEA.com

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Online payment – up to 9:00pm

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB13-CHC-054**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 14, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**“PURCHASE OF 5,000 PIECES OF PLASTIC WATER BOTTLES
WITH CARBINER FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE
CORPORATION – IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM”**

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/S/ JUAN N. BABAUTA
CEO, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORP.

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ ROXANNE DIAZ
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR

Exercise Forager Fury 2012 ends

By LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

TINIAN, Northern Marianas Islands—Marines and sailors on Tinian and Guam have torn down their tents and packed up their gear as Exercise Forager Fury 2012 draws to a close. With FF12 ending, it is time to measure what has been learned from the exercise.

“Overall, we achieved everything we set out to do and more,” said Col. Christopher J. Mahoney, the commanding officer of Marine Aircraft group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. “Like any good military organization, we put objectives down and put recourses against those objectives. We have motivated Marines and I could not be happier with our ability to deploy and employ our capabilities from a tactical standpoint.”

In addition to their aircraft, MAG-12 also brought Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 to set up a forward area refueling point on Tinian’s West Field.

“I am very pleased with the Marines’ performance in providing aviation ground support on Guam and Tinian,” said Lt. Col. Howard Eyth, the commanding officer of MWSS-171, MAG-12, 1st MAW, III MEF. “They

demonstrated that they could take certain functions of aviation ground support and deploy them in an expeditionary environment and do so rapidly in support of generating combat power for MAG-12.”

FF12 marked many firsts for MAG-12, from assisting in the landing of a Boeing 747 on Tinian’s West Field; breaking the record for most arrested landings within one hour with 13;

and integrating MV-22B Ospreys into their first exercise since arriving on Okinawa.

“This was the first integration of the MV-22 Ospreys into what is largely a fixed wing air group,” said Mahoney. “I could not be happier with the tactical integration of that incredible platform into what we did here. It is fast, it is flexible, it carries a lot, and we used that to our advantage.”

Though a tactical exercise, FF12 was not without its community relation’s projects.

“Our community relations efforts on Tinian were bigger and better; from the Navy volunteer dentists and doctors to Dr. Pam Limb, a volunteer pediatrician, and volunteer Marines,” said Mahoney. “Because of their efforts we were welcomed onto the island; because of their efforts we will be welcomed onto

the island again; and because of their efforts they have brought medical and dental care to a new standard all by virtue of hard work of volunteer efforts.”

The Fury series of exercises have proven themselves vital training assets for MAG-12 thus far, with bright aspirations for the future.

The Marianas affords MAG-12 the ability to take all of their available capabilities and deploy them to an expeditionary environment, according to Eyth.

“If you look around our camps, you will see the back-

bone, the reason that I am able to defy gravity in my F-18,” said Mahoney. “Without these young Marines rolling in and doing the grunt work, the unsung hero work, I can not get my machine in the air. That is why our enemies fear us, not because of a guy like me, but because of the young Marines here on the ground keeping our planes alive.”

FF12 is complete, with MAG-12 and its units returning home from another successful exercise, proving yet again that the ready group is always ready.



An FA-18D Hornet and a U.S. Navy MH-60S Knighthawk helicopter wait for refueling on Tinian West Field during simulated surge operation as part of Exercise Forager Fury 2012. During the opening hours of the surge, four Hornets and two Knighthawks landed on Tinian and received fuel. The Hornet is with Marine All Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 224, which is currently under the Unit Deployment Program with Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. The Knighthawk is with Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 out of Anderson Air Force Base, Guam.

LANCE CPL. J. GAGE KARWICK

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Management Accountant (2)

College degree with accounting or financial management major and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in analyzing, interpreting and providing sound financial information. Must be adept in monthly financial statement preparation and consolidation, cash flow forecasting, budgeting, and providing financial projections. Must have excellent communication, organizational and self-management skills. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft Excel, Power Point and Project. CPA not required.

Administrative Assistant (5)

Associate's Degree. Must be proficient in typing and good at written and oral communication. Must be able to consistently demonstrate good customer service and interpersonal skills at work. Can work flexible hours. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

Business Operations Manager

Graduate of a 4-year degree course and with a minimum of 8 years of professional progressive management experience and at least 4 years of general management experience in property management and building maintenance. Knowledge of lease negotiations plus financial and quality management is required. Must have a solid track record in accomplishing business objectives.

Air conditioning & Refrigeration Mechanic

Associate's Degree or Vocational School graduate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, servicing, and repairing air conditioning and refrigerating systems in residences and commercial establishments. Must have his/her own reliable transportation and must be able to work flexible hours.

Electrician

High school diploma or GED certificate. Must have at least 2 years experience installing, maintaining, and/or repairing electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures. Must have knowledge of electrical codes, intercom and electrical control systems. Must be able to work flexible hours.

General Maintenance Worker (12)

High school diploma or GED certificate or any combination of education, training, and experience which demonstrates ability to perform carpentry, plumbing, glass replacement, painting, masonry, grounds keeping, appliance repair, and electrical wiring; standard practices and use a variety of hand and power tools used in the maintenance and repair of building facilities. Must be able to work flexible hours. Can work outdoors.

Legal Secretary (2)

Associates degree and at least 2 years work related experience in a legal office. Proficient in case and document management software, Microsoft Office Word, Excel, Power Point and Outlook. Familiar in preparation and filing of pleadings and legal documents.

Engineering Manager

Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering with at least 5 years of progressive management experience. Ability to successfully develop, implement and manage projects including the ability to provide effective leadership is a must. Adeptness in cost estimation and knowledge of quality control and federal regulations in environmental and occupational safety hazards is required. The duties of this job require constant outside travel and exposure to outside weather conditions. Must be able to provide his/her own transportation and must have a valid driver's license.

Sales Officer

Associate's Degree in Sales or Marketing and at least 3 years work related experience are required. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Must be able to prepare management and sales reports and is proficient in various MS office software operations. Can work flexible hours. Must be available to work on weekends, holidays and weeknights.

IT Manager

College degree with a major in computer science, computer technology or information engineering or other related areas is required. At least 5 years of progressive management experience and 8 years of sound and all-around IT technical experience is required. Must have well-developed written/oral and management skills and with a strong background in all IT hardware, software and communication business requirements.

Computer Technician

Associate's degree in any computer science, information technology or other related areas. Must have at least 3 years of sound experience in electronics and communication systems with emphasis on the repair of computer equipment and installation of telephone cables/systems. Must be knowledgeable in different software applications and in hardware troubleshooting. Must be able to work flexible hours.

Graphic Designer

Associate's degree in Fine Arts, Graphic Design or other related areas. Minimum of 3 years work experience in creating graphics to meet specific commercial or promotional needs. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multi-task and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, depending on demand.

Programmer Analyst (2)

Associate's degree in computer science or computer programming and at least 3 years of work-related experience in a professional Microsoft Windows environment. Strong practical knowledge in relational databases management particularly in midrange RDMS environment such as SQL server. Knowledge in windows-based and web-based programming is a must.

Accountant (3)

Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work related experience in financial management and/or payroll and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and Power Point software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Accounting Manager

College degree with financial management major and 5 years of progressive financial management experience. Minimum of 3 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage people. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software. CPA not required.

Network Administration Manager

Associate's degree in any computer science, information engineering or other computer technology related areas. Must have at least 5 years of sound experience in local and wide area networks management and administration including system configuration, setup, troubleshooting, planning, designing, implementation, and user support. Must have knowledge in MS Exchange Email Server.

Housekeeper (5)

High school diploma or GED Certificate. Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should be sent to hrd_l&t@tanholdings.com not later than October 21, 2011.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. office located at JP Center Building in Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, October 18, 2012.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Inouye's death leaves hole in HI political clout

HONOLULU (AP)—The death of U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii leaves open a seat in the Senate to be filled by a Democrat, with U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa the immediate front-runner thanks to Inouye's wishes.



Inouye

It also leaves a huge hole in terms of Hawaii's political clout. Inouye had represented Hawaii in Congress since statehood in 1959, first in the House and for the last 50 years in the Senate. He was the longest serving member of the Senate, and he chaired the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee, helping to direct federal aid and resources to build up his still-young state, where he is revered.

One day after his death, his Senate desk on Tuesday was draped in black, with flowers and a lei. He was 88. Memorial services have been scheduled for Friday in Washington and Sunday in Hawaii.

"Think about everything that's happened in the last 50 years, Sen. Inouye's had his hand on that," said William H. Warren, assistant chair of the social sciences department at Hawaii Pacific University.

Inouye's influence also extended beyond his legislative duties, Warren said.

"He was the person people went to when there was a problem that needed to be solved," he said.

Inouye's death from respiratory complications, compounded by the retirement of Sen. Daniel Akaka after 22 years, leaves Hawaii with one of the most junior congressional delegations in the country.

Three-term U.S. Rep. Mazie Hirono will replace Akaka after winning the seat last month and become the first woman to represent Hawaii in the Senate, while Rep.-elect Tulsi Gabbard will be one of the youngest members of Congress, at 31. Hanabusa was just elected to her second term in the House.

Inouye, in a letter to Gov. Neil Abercrombie dated Monday, asked that Abercrombie "grant me my last wish" and name Hanabusa as his successor.

"It is with much sadness that I share with you, that I will not be able to complete my ninth term in the United States Senate," he said.

"While I understand that selecting someone to serve out the remainder of my term is fully your responsibility, I respectfully request that U.S. Representative Colleen Hanabusa succeed me, and continue the work, together with Mazie, on behalf of Hawaii in the U.S. Senate."

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 20, 2000

House lifts worker importation ban

The measure repealing the moratorium on the hiring of nonresident workers hurdled the tough-and very vocal-opposition put up by the House minority yesterday to make it to the next phase in the legislative process. With a majority vote of eight and six others voting no, the House of Representatives passed House Bill 12-415 during Wednesday morning's regular session, in a bid to repeal Public Law 11-6, which House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial described as an "anti-business law." It was not an easy victory, though, with Reps. Heinz S. Hofschneider and Diego T. Benavente each making impassioned appeals and offering compelling reasons for the retention of Public Law 11-6.

DOF insists compromise on unpaid CUC bills

Finance Sec. Lucy DLG. Nielsen took a hard-line stance yesterday on the government's tussle with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. over its unpaid billings, saying both sides must compromise to resolve the long-standing issue. She was quick to remind CUC officials that the government has been helping the utility agency overcome financial difficulties by waiving the excise tax on fuel which costs the CNMI coffers at least \$3 million every year. "The CUC board should take into consideration the contributions made by the government, such as funding for [capital improvement projects]," Nielsen told reporters.

Dec. 20, 2001

NMI teachers raise major concerns

Members of the CNMI Association of Commonwealth Teachers have identified two areas upon which to focus their collective energies. Since the ACT-sponsored election in September of Franklin Keiper of MHS as BOE teacher-representative to the Public School System Board of Education, with Barbara Marfalan of KES as alternate, Keiper received an endorsement by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio who instructed him by letter to "go to work." Keiper attends BOE meetings and receives briefings on PSS business, which he relays to teachers for discussion and review. He also presents ideas, suggestions and concerns from ACT or from various PSS school teachers who contact him when he meets with teachers at their schools.

NMHC signs home financing deal with HSBC

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation and the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Ltd. yesterday signed a residential financing agreement, as part of efforts to make home ownership a possibility even among low-income families. Under the Collaboration Guaranty Resident Loans to Qualified Borrowers agreement, NMHC Board Chair Juan S. Tenorio said that HSBC will be providing guaranteed loans to borrowers for purposes of constructing homes, home improvements, and purchasing single family residential homes. Tenorio said that the agreement will enable the NMHC to further enhance residential loan assistance to borrowers. He added that the NMHC is still inundated with residential loan applications as the demands for residential financing exceeded the agency's supply of available funding.

Dec. 20, 2002

Over \$1M aid needed for PSS

Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos said the Public School System on Rota sustained over \$1 million in losses due to super-typhoon Pongsona. "If we look at our losses, maybe it's a little over a \$1 million. We can't exactly tell how much [as] we're still consolidating our report," said Inos. She said, though, that transportation estimates indicated that the repair of a PSS service bus alone would require \$30,000 to \$50,000. A replacement bus would require some \$100,000. "It's a tremendous amount we're looking at. Even at the Rota High School, instructional materials need replacement-books, computers, classroom furniture, electrical fixtures, all that," she said.

PSS to get over \$2M in US allotment

Federal budget estimates showed that public schools in the CNMI will be able to get over \$2 million in direct allocation during the current fiscal year. In a board meeting yesterday, PSS federal program officer William P. Matson said this budget would come from the total consolidated grant (new funds plus carryover) of \$10.1 million. "Our schools should easily receive more than \$2 million in direct allocations, teacher/principal staff development, and on-campus data management benefits for this year," said Matson. The PSS, headed by Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos, earlier held a meeting to decide on school allocations of the federal grants.

Contributions to Fund total \$19.9M; liquidation from assets total \$62.1M

The unaudited total amount of contributions coming into the NMI Retirement Fund in fiscal year 2012 amounted to \$19,951,052, while total liquidation from the Fund's assets totaled \$62,100,000, according to acting Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan.

In her declaration filed in federal court on Monday, Pangelinan disclosed that the Public School System has now remitted the full amount of employee contributions to the Fund.

"All government agencies and the government itself are

now up to date with their employee contributions," Pangelinan said.

The government and its autonomous agencies, however, have still failed to remit approximately \$247.101 million in employer contributions, she added.

Pangelinan estimates that, based on the initial applications and disbursements, between \$80 million and \$100 million are needed to satisfy all requests to terminate membership in the Fund.

The attorneys for the Fund, Braddock J. Huesman and Dan-

iel J. Berman, included Pangelinan's declaration in their request for court guidance and instruction on how to implement Public Law 17-82, which allows members to withdraw their contributions from the Fund.

"Until the Fund receives an order of instruction or decision, the applications and distribution of employee contributions will remain stayed, and even in the event of approval of distribution, the Fund would ask for a further order that it cannot distribute any interest," the lawyers said.

As of Sept. 14, 2012, Fund assets are estimated at \$223 million, including the \$113 million reserved by the court for active members. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

USP4GG, Marianas Eye Institute offer free health screening on Sat.

In an effort to increase awareness of maintaining good health and to promote education on disease prevention, the US Pinoy for Good Governance Marianas chapter, in collaboration with the Marianas Eye Institute, will be holding a free three-hour health screening on Saturday, Dec. 22, 2012, from 7:30am to 10:30am, at the Kilili Pavillion (north side) in Susupe, Saipan.

Registration starts from 7am and will be continuing until 8am.

People who would like to avail of the blood sugar tests are advised to fast or to refrain from eating and drinking liquids preferably 12 hours prior to the actual testing.

"This is the first health

screening that USP4GG will be hosting. Screening several key vital metrics include blood pressure, blood sugar and vision. Knowing where your health stands help you start realistic personal health goals for the rest of this year and for year 2013. Free health screening events help members of our community take charge of their health. Further, providing such free services not only signifies volunteerism but is also a gesture of a gift to our community during this Christmas season," said Dr. Celia Lamkin, chairperson of USP4GG Marianas Chapter.

Marianas Eye Institute's CEO Russ Quinn states, "We are always looking for ways to reach

out to the community. This type of health screening is key to helping people maintain good health. We applaud Dr. Lamkin's efforts."

Parents are encouraged to bring their children for free vision screening, added Lamkin.

Information on disease prevention such as hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes, among others, will be distributed at the health screening site.

The US Pinoy for Good Governance is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization based in New York, headed by national chair Loida Nicolas Lewis, national president Rodel Rodis and spokesperson/legal counsel Ted Laguatan. **(PR)**



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293/6245
Saipan, MP 96950



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. Public hearing. In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) will conduct a public hearing at the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan, on Thursday, December 27, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. on the application of Saipan Surfrider, LLC, Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed construction and operation of a resort hotel, all pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.

B. Nature of hearing. This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

C. Further information. For further information, please contact CDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its offices at Wakin's Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director



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WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE:	December 20, 2012	POSITION:	Front Desk Clerk
CLOSE DATE:	December 27, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage/Negotiable
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Proficiency in Japanese/Chinese/Korean Languages. Minimum two (2) years in hotel front desk or concierge services strongly preferred. Must have excellent people skill, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and ready smile.			
OPEN DATE:	December 20, 2012	POSITION:	Lifeguard (Part-Time & Full Time)
CLOSE DATE:	December 27, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Obtaining a lifeguard certification may be required for continued employment. Must have friendly and outgoing personality.			
OPEN DATE:	December 20, 2012	POSITION:	Bell Hop (Part-Time)
CLOSE DATE:	December 27, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Must have friendly and outgoing personality. Some experience in Customer Service preferred.			
OPEN DATE:	December 20, 2012	POSITION:	Server (Part-Time)
CLOSE DATE:	December 27, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Must have a friendly and outgoing personality, excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude.			
OPEN DATE:	December 20, 2012	POSITION:	Cook (Chinese/Western/Japanese/Korean)
CLOSE DATE:	December 27, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage/Negotiable
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) year experience in culinary experience. Applicants with formal training / education in culinary arts strongly preferred. Position may require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment.			
OPEN DATE:	December 20, 2012	POSITION:	Power Plant Operator
CLOSE DATE:	December 27, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage/Negotiable
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Formal electrician education or training highly preferred. Formal Training in Mechanical repair / engineering highly preferred.			
OPEN DATE:	December 20, 2012	POSITION:	Landscaper/Pool Attendant
CLOSE DATE:	December 27, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two years experience in landscaping preferred.			
OPEN DATE:	December 20, 2012	POSITION:	Kids College Attendant
CLOSE DATE:	December 27, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage
Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two years experience in a cashier type occupation preferred. Must enjoy and be comfortable interacting with young children. Cheerful and outgoing personality highly preferred.			

For more information, please contact Human Resources Office at (670) 234-5900 ext. 576/266.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be received by the Security Office.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The nation needs a conversation about violence

Days after the Connecticut shootings, the Dallas Morning News is no different than the rest of the country. We're still trying to shake off the shock of how classrooms of first-graders were massacred by a troubled young man who seems unconnected in any way with the school. But we roust ourselves from the horror in hopes that perhaps some change can come out of Newtown's tragedy.

To launch a national conversation about violence is not to politicize the sadness. Rather, it is to search for ways that communities can secure themselves, including through better gun laws and mental health options.

The first step that's needed is a rational, civil debate about where lawmakers should draw the lines on guns. Americans from opposing points of view should come to the discussion willing to move beyond their talking points.

Those who favor restricting gun rights must realize their neighbors who buy and use guns have a constitutional right to do so and that most gun owners use them prudently. Nor will gun control laws stop every madman.

At the same time, those who oppose any gun restrictions should rethink what parts of their gun rights they would give up if that would help law enforcement get more rapid-fire, high-capacity weapons off the streets. If police make the case for sensible controls, would they not give up something for the larger good?

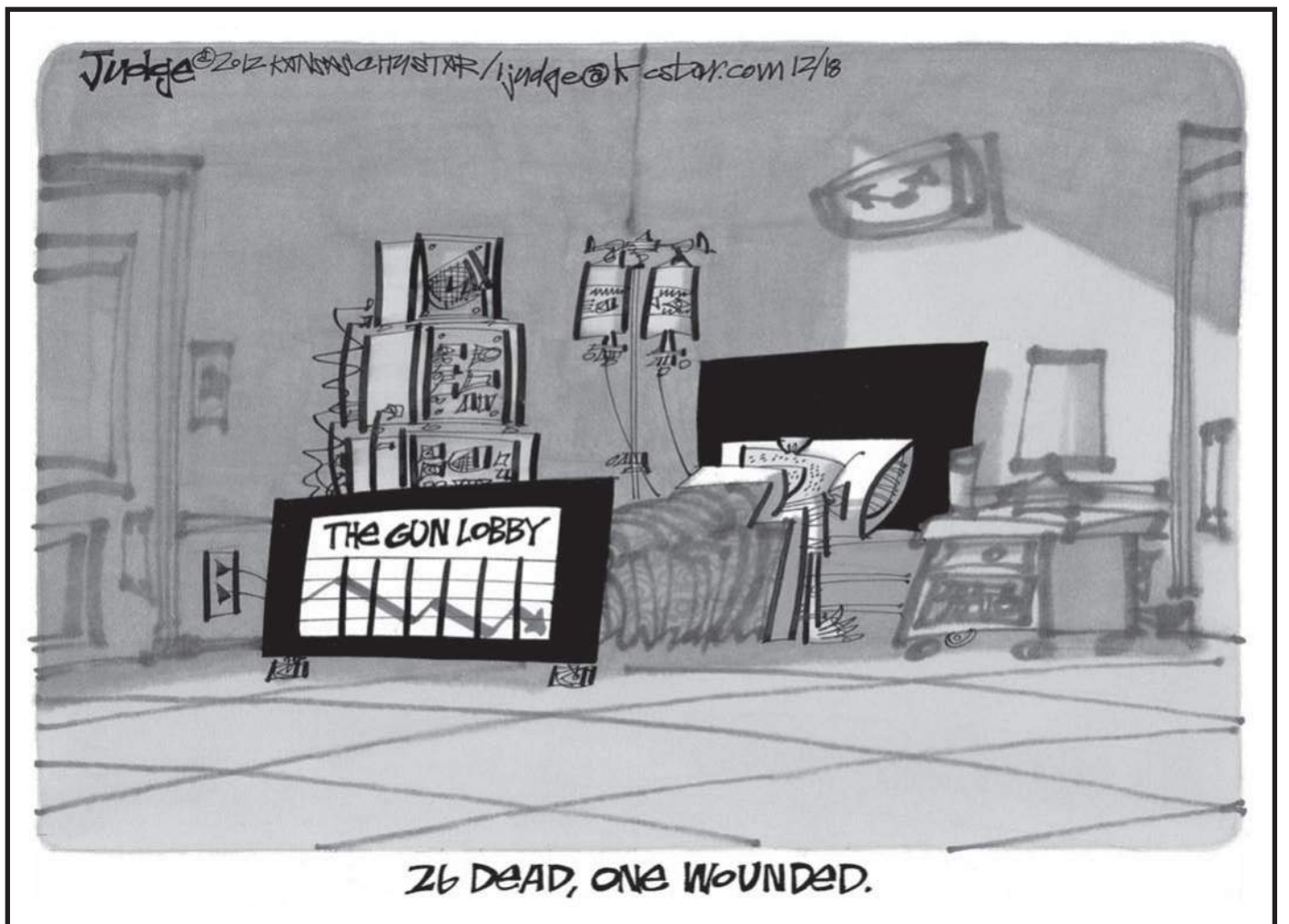
A spirit of compromise is needed so the nation can focus on how Newtown's tragedy could have been prevented and how other communities can avoid their own.

The weaponry part of the discussion will stir up the most passion. But mental health issues are every bit as relevant, if not more so.

Perhaps this means more options for families to access mental health care. The Texas Legislature is returning next month, so lawmakers particularly should look into how schools can better reach families with troubled children. Perhaps what's also needed is more education and help for the caregivers of afflicted youth. Their parents endure a lonely, agonizing hell.

We can't create gun laws or mental health options that will solve every problem. That doesn't mean we shouldn't try to do more. As President Barack Obama rightly asked Sunday, "Can we honestly say that we are doing enough to keep our children—all of them—safe from harm?"

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Inouye's Hawaii

I only got to meet him once in '98 while living in Hawaii. My brother got a letter earlier from his Senate office while stuck in Manila in the '70s. He was waiting for his immigrant visa interview and the process was taking longer than planned. He had been a student in the U.S. and returned home as required by INS to change visa status. Senator Inouye's letterhead might have expedited his consular processing a bit.

The eldest serving U.S. senator, Daniel Inouye succumbed to respiratory complications this week. At 88, he had another two years to his 9th term. He did manage to arrange for his successor, District 1 Rep. Coleen Hanabusa. With Democratic Gov. Neil Abercrombie at the state's helm, the appointment is a done deal. Inouye gently whispered "Aloha" before he expired.

The gentleman from Hawaii whose manners and suasion were respected by both sides of the Senate aisle was not always so refined. He was a young man in Honolulu when he saw Zeros bomb Pearl Harbor. He knew he had to uphold the honor of his race since his parents raised him to be a citizen of a new home, so he immediately tried to enlist. The shape of his eyes and the color of his skin, however, listed him as a possible enemy.

Undeterred, he and other Japanese-Americans formed the elite combat battalion of the 4-4-2 whose exploits in Europe is legendary. The bemedaled second generation Nippongo is recorded to have unleashed the kamikaze spirit on German machine gun nests in Italy in WWII. Three of them, in one encounter, with the third shattering his right arm in a grenade explosion, the diminutive guy singlehandedly decimated a Wehrmacht platoon on the run. When stopped with a leg lead hit, he propped himself against a tree and unloaded his cartridges until the last gunnery was silenced.

At the hospital, after surgery and recovery, he had to rely on his buddies to tell him what he did. "Only a crazy guy would do that," he was said to have responded to his platoon mates. All told, he was. And then some!

Inouye joined the Democratic Party revolution that took Hawaii by a storm in '54 before it joined the union as the 50th state in '59. He became a congressional district representative and three years later, started a nine-term run in the U.S. Senate. We got lei'd on the hula shores the first time in '65. Because of Inouye's work with the Democratic workers against the Republican plantation owners, he was a revered *saluyot Manong* among the Ilocano farm hands, and that's how he came into our Pinoy acquaintance.

My boy's name is Daniel, though I would be lying if I claimed we named him after the senator. My son was, however, born in Washington D.C. in '95 during Bill Clinton's first watch, though that was way past Inouye's keynote speech at the marred Chicago Democratic Convention in '68 when this *Manong*, after the assassinations of MLK and RFK, took a break out of the street parliament. Nor was I within hollering distance in the beltway when Inouye held hearings on the Iran-Contra affair that tarnished the Reagan

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



presidency. In 2000, Clinton belatedly decorated our war hero to the level accorded normal combat veterans of exceptional valor. Inouye batted for the Filipino vets who, to this day, were denied their due.

Of course, our title is not about Inouye as it is about the Hawaii his deft legislative acumen with fellow Sen. Daniel Akaka crafted while the two Daniels presided over the affairs of state often referred to as a quadrant of Washington, D.C.

We drive with a Hawaii license and have considered the islands our political and ethnic home. Akaka is of Hawaiian-Chinese descent but Inouye is pure Nippon of the kind who migrated out of the shogunate before the Meiji restoration in Japan. I once sat on a plane flight in '80 with a Sao Paulo Portuguese speaking Japanese from NYC to Rio. He was a rabid Brazilian nationalist. He reminded me of the senator. The predominant Nippon presence in Hawaiian politics make the islands look more like a prefecture of Japan.

Former governor Ben Cayetano (the Pinoy latchkey kid) came out of retirement to run for the Honolulu mayor's office this year, opposing a needed light rail transit aimed to decongest Oahu's leeward side, but proving to be more costly than first projected. Cayetano lost the election to former city manager Kirk Caldwell.

Inouye was on Caldwell's camp that supported the divisive rail project with possible federal funding. He regretted the nasty flavor of the abundant negative ads in the campaign and counseled for the "aloha" spirit on his party colleagues after the election.

Mazie Hirono, Cayetano's lieutenant governor, the new senator-elect to replace Akaka, is all grace on heels. (I did munch a few *hors d'oeuvre* at a gathering in her residence once, but that will have to wait another telling.) With Coleen Hanabusa joining her, we now have two female senators from Hawaii. Both are practicing Zen Buddhists as well.

With the rough winds of the Sandy Hook incident already hitting the front office of the NRA, and the media revs up both sides of the gun control debate, the nation's capital could use some determined but gentle hands to legislate us out of the rot of a gun culture gone awry that we are in. Methodist Inouye and UCC Akaka of "Onward Christian Soldiers" persuasion now give way to the fragrant lei and the gentle sways of the hula in Alohaland, with a touch of the chrysanthemum on the side.

Am wearing my "I ♥ Hawaii" cap this month. Inouye lives.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

‘Irreducible common denominator’¹

Writing, as a coping mechanism for grief, compels me to put forth this tearful tribute to “the beautiful children of God” whose earthly lives came to a sudden, brutal close one infamous December morning in the small community of Newtown, Connecticut.

“These children—unoffending, innocent and beautiful—were the victims of one of the most vicious and tragic crimes ever perpetrated against humanity” (Martin Luther King, Jr.). It seems impossible to say anything that can console the bereaved in these difficult moments, but perhaps each of us might “find a little consolation from the universality of this experience. Death comes to every individual. There is an amazing democracy about death. It is not aristocracy for some people, but a democracy for all people. Kings die and beggars die; rich men and poor men die; old people die and young people die. Death comes to the innocent and it comes to the guilty. Death is the irreducible common denominator of all men.” (Martin Luther King, Jr.).

“I hope [we] can find some consolation from Christianity’s affirmation that death is not the end. Death is not a period that ends the great sentence of life, but a comma that punctuates it to more lofty significance. Death is not a blind alley that leads the human race into a state of nothingness, but an open door which leads man into life eternal. Let this daring faith, this great invincible surmise, be [our] sustaining power during these trying days.” (Martin Luther King,

Jr.). Of course, that is much easier said than done.

I did not know the victims in this senseless massacre and I cannot profess to fully understand the depth of sorrow in and around the surviving families, but I too received this news like any other parent—to put it simply, I see my own kids in the contrived, violent images of a mass shooting in an elementary school. Truth be told, I cannot seem to stop myself from imagining the terror that must have crept over the faces and through the hearts and souls of all the little children in that horrible nightmare.

Inevitably, whether relevant or not, incidences such as this will spark conversation about mental health. Certainly in this case, the pundits were quick to inject suspicion of Asperger’s or autism or some other form of mental illness. The renewal of fears and stereotypes about the connection between mental illness and violence is perhaps the most predictable reaction to high profile, tragic incidences involving people with a history or diagnosis of a serious mental illness. While the connection between mental illness and violence is complex, “most people with mental illness are not violent, and most people who are violent are not mentally ill.”

In 1963, Dr. King delivered the eulogy at the funeral of three children who were killed in a bombing where he said, “[the children] say to us that we must be concerned not merely about who murdered them, but about the system, the way of life, the philosophy which

Newtown, Conn.: The trigger

What was he feeling? Thinking?

We will never know for sure. After Adam Lanza slaughtered 26 people Friday at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., he killed himself—and took his thoughts and emotions with him.

Twenty of his victims were children, all of them first-graders who had never done a thing to him. What was in his heart and going through his mind while he fired the bullets that fell on them like hailstones from hell?

Maybe nothing.

That’s what it was for Jamie Rouse. Nothing.

On Nov. 15, 1995, when he was 17 years old, Jamie carried his Remington Viper .22-caliber semiautomatic rifle into Richland High School in Lynnville, Tenn., and shot two teachers and a student. One of the teachers died. So did the student, who had just turned 14.

In 1999, I interviewed Jamie for 30 hours over several days in the South Central Correctional Center, a penitentiary just outside Clifton, Tenn. The interviews were for a story in The Los Angeles Times, published April 22, 2000. It told what school shootings are like, not for the victims but for the shooters and their families.

“I don’t remember feeling angry,” Jamie told me. “I wasn’t feeling nothing. Like I said, I don’t remember feeling anything. Period. Empty. Hollow. ... It was kind of a dream. I think another way to describe it is like watching a movie. I mean, it wasn’t an out-of-body experience. But it was just like I was there to observe. I was just observing things, not an active participant.”

Teachers and students wrestled Jamie to the floor and grabbed his rifle. A deputy sheriff arrested him. It was not until then that he felt or thought. “They had me in a little juvenile holding cell, and the TV was on in a back room somewhere. I could hear it. That’s when I first felt anything. When they explained what happened at the school, I was just—‘My God, what have I done?’”

Jamie had started hallucinating when he was 6 or 7. “I remember seeing something kind of go through the hallway, and I go back, and there wasn’t nothing there. It was like a shadow. I always felt a little

bit like it was a ghost.” At about the same time, he began having panic attacks. “I’d wake up and I would pace the floor in the living room. But I would not realize what I had done until morning.”

When he was 8, he started hearing things. “There was voices whispering among themselves. You couldn’t really understand what they was saying.”

Anger was a family trait. His grandfather and father got so mad they blacked out. Jamie’s father drank, used drugs and punched holes in walls. He once shot the family cats for eating some of his Kentucky Fried Chicken. He whipped Jamie with a belt and hit him and his two brothers with a wooden paddle two feet long.

On one occasion, Jamie responded by kicking a doghouse apart. On another, he beat a tree with his fists until they were bloody. One night, fearing another strapping, Jamie took a sword to bed with him and vowed to use it to defend himself. Fortunately, his father stayed out of Jamie’s room that night.

Once, when he was a teenager, Jamie grew upset with one of his brothers. He loaded the Viper and pointed at him. Jamie’s mother told him to hand her the rifle. When his father got home, he said that Jamie could no longer have the gun—but then he returned it when Jamie wanted to go hunting. What had stopped Jamie from pulling the trigger? “I don’t know,” he said, when I interviewed him. “That was the main time I thought I had a problem.”

Did he think of asking for help?

“No. I didn’t figure there was anybody who could help me.”

In school, Jamie was shy and withdrawn. He walked with his head down and spoke without looking anyone in the eye. “I couldn’t relate to anybody, even my best friends,” he told me. “I really didn’t fit in.” He trusted no one. “I couldn’t see no future whatsoever. I just had a hopeless feeling.”

He listened to heavy metal music, then death metal. He began wearing black. He carved an inverted cross into his forehead with a pocketknife and signed “Satan” to his senior yearbook message.

“I wanted to be my own god. I wanted to be in control of my life.”

But he wasn’t. One of his cars would not run. He wrecked an-

other. A third was in the shop much of the time. He got four traffic tickets, and his driver’s license was suspended, then restricted.

By **JIM RAYPHAND**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jim Rayphand is the executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.



produced the murderers. Their death says to us that we must work passionately and unrelentingly for the realization of the American dream.” As one mother aptly points out, “It’s time for a meaningful, nationwide conversation about mental health. That’s the only way our nation can ever truly heal...God help us all” (BlogSpot – Anarchist Soccer Mom).

For more on disability and/or mental health-related information, please feel to contact the NMPASI Office at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7275 [fax] / 235-7278 [tty] or online at www.nmpasi.org.

¹ *Martin Luther King, Jr. – Eulogy for the Martyred Children (Sept. 18, 1963 Birmingham, Alabama)*

² *Melton, G.B., Petrila, J., Poythress, N.G., & Slobogin, C. (2007). Psychological evaluation for the courts (3rd ed.) New York: The Guilford Press*

By **RICHARD E. MEYER**

Los Angeles Times

Richard E. Meyer is a former Los Angeles Times staff writer.



other. A third was in the shop much of the time. He got four traffic tickets, and his driver’s license was suspended, then restricted.

“I tucked it in. ... Everything that would bother me, I would just stuff it in,” until one day he accidentally backed his father’s pickup into a car and argued with its owner’s girlfriend. “I was already at a dangerous level ... and when I got into it with (her), that was the straw that broke the camel’s back.”

Jamie tucked it in—until he walked into Richland school with the Viper.

“I was faithless and messed up. Too many emotions. I mean, it was too much. Too many different extremes of emotion. I was under too much stress. I had too much anger.”

How would he describe himself?

“Disturbed.”

Mentally disturbed?

“Yeah.”

Did Jamie need mental health counseling? Absolutely. Did he get any? No.

Although we will never know what Adam Lanza was feeling as he fired his weapon, we can be sure of one thing: Like Jamie Rouse, he needed help that he didn’t get. He was only three years older than Jamie when he inflicted his hell. By many accounts, Lanza had behavioral problems too. Until we improve our ability to help people, especially young people, who are mentally disturbed, we will continue to pay a heavy price.

In lives. Sometimes the lives of 6-year-olds.

“It was too late for me,” Jamie said. “It was just too late.”

Never forgotten

Editor’s Note: The following is the complete text of the remarks Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) gave during a press conference with other delegates on Dec. 17, 2012, to push for the passage of H.R. 985, which would require that the District of Columbia and all territorial flags be displayed at military events and installations when the flags of all U.S. states are on display.

We are all here today to speak up for the 36,000 men and women now in uniform, who come from the District and from the U.S. insular areas.

These heroes are not getting the recognition they deserve.

They come back from combat duty. They graduate from training. And when they look up at the flags displayed at these occasions—often their flag is missing.

That hurts.

And we know it hurts, because these soldiers and sailors and marines and airmen and airwomen tell us they are hurt. They write to their congressional offices and ask: Why isn’t our flag on display

beside the flags of all the states? Are we not welcome home? Are we not honored for our achievements?

This is not a trivial issue.

The military places great significance in insignia, in symbols, in combat pennants and the colors. These ribbons and humble pieces of cloth stand for something. They have deep meaning. They are a reminder of all those who served before. They are a reminder of bravery and shared sacrifice. They are a reminder that we are all a part of one nation.

So when those symbols are forgotten, the message is that we are not all in this together.

This “oversight”—if you want to call it that—is not because we are new.

As Ms. Norton points out, people from the District served in the Revolutionary War.

People from the Northern Mariana Islands—the people I represent—served in the U.S. Armed Forces in World War II, in the Korean conflict, in the Vietnam War. Even before our islands were part of the United States, even before we had citizenship, our people

risked their lives and died for this country.

And we have lost 18 of our own in the current Middle East wars.

I don’t really know why the flags of these heroes are missing. I just know it has to end.

So that is why we are here. That is why I introduced legislation, requiring that the flags of all U.S. areas—whether states or territories or Districts or Commonwealths, whatever we are called—so that all our flags always are displayed together. None forgotten.

So that none of our brave women and men serving us all in the military are ever left feeling that they—or the comrades they lost in battle—have been forgotten.

By **GREGORIO KILILI C. SABLAN**






Special to the Saipan Tribune



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 20 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 89° ▼ 76°	▲ 89° ▼ 76°	▲ 89° ▼ 76°	▲ 89° ▼ 76°	▲ 89° ▼ 76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Windy	▲ 87 ▼ 80
Palau	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲ 90 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Majuro	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 80

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▼ 67
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 34 ▼ 14
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 74 ▼ 66
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 79 ▼ 70
London	Cloudy	▲ 47 ▼ 42
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 66 ▼ 45
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 54
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 67
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 43
Osaka	Cloudy	▲ 50 ▼ 39
Paris	Rain	▲ 47 ▼ 45
Pusan	Showers	▲ 49 ▼ 39
Rome	Showers	▲ 51 ▼ 45
Salem	Rain	▲ 41 ▼ 36
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 59 ▼ 54
Seoul	Cloudy	▲ 36 ▼ 28
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 50 ▼ 35
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲ 51 ▼ 41

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
12:17 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
6:47 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
1:30 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
8:26 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N138E to beyond 130E at 22N. Scattered showers are found along and north of the front to beyond 25N. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 3N130E to EQ142E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near Koror and just south of Yap between 5N and 10N from 130E to 142E and farther to the south south of a line from 2N130E to EQ136E farther east. Scattered showers are found southwest of Chuuk within 100 miles of a line from 6N142E to 2N152E. A tropical disturbance is centered near Kosrae at 3N165E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found across much of eastern Micronesia from Kapingamarangi and Pohnpei to the Marshall Islands within an area bounded by a line from EQ152E to 11N162E to 10N172E to EQ174E back to EQ152E. A surface trough east-southeast of Wake Island is producing scattered showers east of a line from 12N175E to 17N176E.

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:38 AM	5:51 PM
Friday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM
Saturday	6:39 AM	5:52 PM
Sunday	6:39 AM	5:53 PM
Monday	6:40 AM	5:53 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	12:00 AM	
Friday	12:39 PM	12:30 AM
Saturday	1:19 PM	1:20 AM
Sunday	2:00 PM	2:09 AM
Monday	2:42 PM	2:58 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DEC. 14, 2012									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7		UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7	
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5		UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily	
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily		UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7		UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily		UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily	
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily		UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily	
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily						
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily		DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily	
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily		DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7		OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 5, 6	
OZ608	3:30am	6:40am	3		OZ607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	2	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1		OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily	
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily		OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7		3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)					BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
MU7108	4:05am	5:55am	1, 3, 5		MU7107	6:30pm	1:50am+1	2, 4, 7	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)					GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6		3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)					VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN				
VLK1734	2:00am	8:15am	5 every other week		VLK1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4 every other week	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1		OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT	
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM		UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM	
DL287/173	6:00am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT		UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM	
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM		OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN		PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
					UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA5076/147	3:10pm	10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM		OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN		UA180/5071	11:25pm	10:40am+1	1 via GUM	
					UA180/5077	11:25pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM	
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.									
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)									

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE							
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				

Storied canoe returns home to Micronesia 70 years later



HABELE

James Hapdei holds a model canoe in Yap, Micronesia. The model was a gift from his father to Francis Wilson, Chief Pharmacist's Mate, who helped treat a Yaws epidemic during World War Two.

COLONIA, Yap—A two-foot long model canoe has returned to Yap, Micronesia, where it will be restored and preserved by a local group of carvers. Included in the group is the son of the man who first made the model for a special U.S. sailor seven decades ago.

The canoe has traveled thousands of miles on its journey home. It was carved as a gift for a U.S. Navy sailor who served in the Pacific during World War II. Chief Pharmacist's Mate Francis Wilson was one of a pair of sailors who helped to battle an outbreak of yaws, a crippling tropical infection, on the Atoll of Ulithi during the war. The other was physician and author Dr. Mar-

shal Paul Wees.

According to 1950 article in the *Saturday Review*, "Dr. Wees was sent by the U.S. Navy to cope with a terrible scourge of yaws with which the people of Ulithi were afflicted... With a minimum of medical supplies and no assistance but the aid of a pharmacist's mate, Dr. Wees accomplished his mission and eliminated yaws."

The islanders gave Wilson the canoe along with other gifts of thanks and friendship when the two Navy men left Ulithi. The model is over two feet long and nearly a foot wide from the edge of its outrigger to the hull line. Wilson's son located the canoe among

his deceased father's effects earlier this year and coordinated the donation through "Habele," a U.S.-based nonprofit organization that supports students across Micronesia.

Habele reached out to longtime partner "Waa'gey," a local partner group in Yap that preserves and revives traditional island skills such as carving and weaving. Waa'gey has been crafting full size traditional canoes by pairing older master carvers with high school aged students. Among their volunteers is James Hapdei, the son of the man who first carved the canoe model for Wilson during the war. The group offered to make repairs to the slightly deteriorated

model and display the canoe for islanders and tourists to enjoy.

The model is a faithful and detailed representation of the Caroline Island dugout sailing canoes that are emblematic of Yap and appear on the Yap State flag. It is believed to be the oldest Outer Island style canoe model in all of the Federated States of Micronesia.

"Waa'gey is receiving a valuable artifact from an interesting period in Ulithi's past, when model outrigger canoes were not just souvenirs for tourists but taught young people how to make real canoes," explained anthropologist Barbara Wavell, an expert on Caroline Island carvings and author of *The Arts and Crafts of Micronesia*. "Model canoes were also used in traditional rituals or as toys for young boys."

The medical work of Francis Wilson and Dr. Marshall Paul Wees were chronicled in the 1950 book *King Doctor of Ulithi*. The text makes specific mention of the model. The canoe model is also nearly identical to one depicted in *The Ulithi Encyclopedia*, a text authored by U.S. Navy Lt. John Loudon Vollbrecht and other sailors in 1945.

"Holding this canoe feels like one has reached through time and touched the past," said Larry Raigetal, the founder and director of Waa'gey. "As modern day canoe builders, it gives us an incredible sense of motivation and participation in our past. We are so grateful to Luke Wilson and Habele for this donation, and this trust." (*Habele Outer Island Education Fund*)



HABELE

Master and apprentice carvers from Waa'gey examine the donated canoe model and prepare plans for its restoration and display.

Inos in China to meet with airline investors

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos left for China on Sunday to meet with investors interested in bringing in new charter flights to the CNMI, press secretary Angel Demapan confirmed Wednesday.

"He will be meeting with investors and will be discussing possible new air service charter flights to the CNMI. He had to make a brief stop-over in Japan to obtain his travel visa for China," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

It's not known as of press time which specific investors the lieutenant governor will be meeting with in China. Inos is

expected to be back on Saturday.

Last month, the owner of at least six hotels in Guam and the CNMI and Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) said that JMSH LLC will be launching next year a new airline called "Air Papaya" that they hope will become a CNMI carrier, with initial flights to and from Saipan, Guam, and major cities in China and Japan. JMSH LLC vice president Jae Ong said Air Papaya is expected to bring over 260,000 passengers annually to the CNMI.

Inos' trip comes days after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial came back from the Philippines for an official function and later on for personal matters.



FIESTA
Resort & SPA
SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

Invites qualified US workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) GUEST RELATIONS MANAGER - CHINA MARKET

Qualifications: Must have at least 4 years of progressive experience in management level and 5 years in the Hospitality Industry. Able to multi-task and must possess exceptional customer service and interpersonal skills. Proficient in both oral and written communication (English and Mandarin Chinese). Planning and problem-solving skills are essential. Must have the ability to manage a department in a changing environment and manage employees' performance.

(3) MASSAGE THERAPIST

Qualifications: Must have gone through training in a vocational school or acquired at least 2 years of related on-the-job experience (Shiatsu, Oil and Foot Massage) in a spa environment. Ability to speak Mandarin Chinese is an advantage. Must be able to adapt to changes in work assignments and willing to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

(1) EVENTS MANAGER

Qualifications: Strong background and experience in Food & Beverage/Events preferably in the hospitality industry. Possess the ability to work quickly, accurately, creatively and independently in a fast-paced environment. 5 years work experience required. Must be able to work a variable schedule on occasion, including early morning, evenings and/or weekends.

Application Forms may be obtained from our Security Office located at the South Wing. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than December 29, 2012. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

**Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons
with Disabilities are urged to apply.**

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting qualified applicants to apply for the following positions:

Accounting and Circulations Manager

College degree with financial management major and 3 years of progressive financial management and newspaper circulation experience. Minimum of 5 years experience in directing the preparation of financial reports and implementing cash management and newspaper circulation activities. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills to manage a work team and independent contractors. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) system and Microsoft software. CPA not required.

Graphic Designer (3)

Associate's degree in Graphic Design or other related field. Minimum of 3 years work experience doing computer graphics and newspaper layout. Proficiency in Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign is a must. Must be familiar with offset printing process, computer peripherals, and Mac operating system. Strong organizational and self-management skills, including the ability to multi-task and prioritize are required. Can work flexible hours, weekends, and holidays, depending on demand.

Advertising Sales Agent

Associates degree in Business Administration or any related course. Minimum of 3 years solid experience in advertising and sales is required. Must have the ability to compose clear business correspondence and prepare and meet monthly sales targets. A background in a printing or newspaper business is an advantage. Proficient in MS Word, Excel and Power Point and must work flexible hours.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. office located at JP Center Building in Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, December 31, 2012.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons
are encouraged to apply.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting qualified applicants to apply for the following positions:

Reporter (3)

Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any related course; At least 3 years work related experience; Above-average writing skills and a competent grasp of grammar and syntax; With rigorous standards for accuracy and detail; Ability to work within deadlines and in a stressful environment; Knowledgeable in all types of writing, including news and features; With photography skills.

Advertising Sales Manager

Associates degree in Business Administration or any related course. Minimum of 5 years solid experience in advertising and sales is required. Must have the ability to compose clear business correspondence and prepare and meet monthly sales targets. A background in a printing or newspaper business is a must. Proficient in MS Word, Excel and Power Point and must work flexible hours.

Circulations Coordinator

Associates degree with a minimum of 2 years progressively responsible work experience. Requirements include professional customer service and good driving skills. Must be able to routinely lift and move bundles of newspapers up to 50 lbs.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. office located at JP Center Building in Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Wednesday, January 02, 2013.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
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are encouraged to apply.

Business

Cliff talks hit a lull with Boehner's 'Plan B'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Just two weeks from an economy-threatening deadline, fiscal cliff talks hit a lull Tuesday as House Speaker John Boehner announced that Republicans would also march ahead with their own tax plan on a separate track from the one he's been pursuing with President Barack Obama.

The White House and leading congressional Democrats immediately rejected Boehner's "Plan B," which would extend soon-to-expire Bush-era tax cuts for everyone making less than \$1 million but would not address huge across-the-board spending cuts that are set to strike the Pentagon and domestic programs next year.

"Everyone should understand Boehner's proposal will not pass the Senate," said Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.

Boehner's surprise move came after significant progress over the past several days in talks with Obama—talks that produced movement on tax rate hikes that have proven deeply unsettling to GOP conservatives and on cuts to Social Security benefits that have incensed liberal Democrats.

Just Monday, Obama offered concessions, including a plan to raise top tax rates on households earning more than \$400,000 instead of the \$250,000 threshold he had campaigned on. And the two sides had inched closer on the total amount of tax revenue required to seal the agreement. Obama now would settle for \$1.2 trillion over the coming decade while Boehner is offering \$1 trillion.

By contrast, protecting income below \$1 million from a hike in the top tax rate from 35 percent to 39.6 percent would

raise only \$269 billion over the coming decade.

But the outlines of a possible Obama-Boehner agreement appeared to have shaky support at best from Boehner's leadership team and outright opposition from key Republicans like vice presidential nominee Paul Ryan, R-Wis., a House GOP aide said. That aide spoke only on condition of anonymity because the aide was not authorized to discuss the situation publicly.

Though Obama spokesman Jay Carney had nothing good to say about Boehner's new op-

tion, he said, "The president is willing to continue to work with Republicans" toward a broader agreement.

The narrower Plan B faced plenty of opposition. Democrats announced they would oppose it, and many conservative Republicans continued to resist any vote that might be interpreted as raising taxes. Republicans were refining the measure Tuesday in hopes of building support among the GOP rank and file, but passing the measure exclusively with GOP votes could prove difficult.

"I think it's a terrible idea," said Rep. Raul Labrador, R-Idaho. "For a lot of reasons."

Republicans noted that top Democrats like Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi of California and Sen. Charles Schumer of New York have in the recent past supported the million-dollar threshold for rates hikes. "We've had an election on the President's

tax plan, the President won, and Republicans can't turn the clock back," said Schumer spokesman Brian Fallon.

Boehner's back-up plan would extend current income tax rates except for income exceeding \$1 million, set a 20 percent tax rate on capital gains and dividend income for income over \$1 million instead of

15 percent now, and retain current rules regarding the estate tax instead of tighter parameters sought by Obama.

It would also prevent an expansion of the alternative minimum tax that would otherwise hit 28 million middle- and upper-class Americans with an average \$3,700 increase on their 2012 tax returns.

Investors turn against gun makers after massacre

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Investors shunned some of the nation's largest gun makers Tuesday, putting up for sale the manufacturer of the Bushmaster semiautomatic rifle used in the Connecticut school shooting and worrying that the attack could soon bring stricter gun laws.

Stocks of other gun companies fell, and one sporting-goods chain said it would temporarily stop sales of military-style firearms. In Washington, some former opponents of gun control signaled that they may change their position, potentially giving stricter gun laws their best chance of passage in years.

The most notable rejection of the gun industry came when the private-equity firm Cerberus Capital Management announced it would sell the maker of the rifle used in the massacre, which it called a "watershed event."

The shooting "raised the national debate on gun control to an unprecedented level," Cerberus said in a news release. "We are investors, not statesmen or policy makers."

In an acknowledgment of the changing political climate, the National Rifle Association promised "to offer meaningful contributions to help make sure this never happens again." It scheduled a Friday news conference.

Bushmaster, Remington and DPMS are among the brands made by Freedom Group Inc., the largest firearms maker in the U.S.

Opinion on guns

What Americans say about gun laws and the meaning of recent mass shootings:

• Do you favor or oppose stricter gun control laws in the U.S.?

Favor 51%

Oppose 47%

Unsure: 2%

• A ban on the manufacture, sale and possession of semiautomatic assault guns, such as the AK-47

Favor 57%

Oppose 42%

Unsure: 1%

• Recent shootings reflect:

■ Broader problems in society

■ Just isolated acts of troubled individuals

Newtown, Conn. 47%

Aurora, Colo., July 2012 24%

Tucson, Ariz., Jan. 2011 31%

Va. Tech., April 2007 46%

Unsure: 12%

Unsure: 7%

Source: Pew Research Center poll, Dec. 14-16, 2012, of 746 adults; margin of error: +/-4.3 percentage points; CNN/ORC poll Aug. 7-8, 2012, of 1,010 adults; margin of error: +/-3 percentage points; Washington Post/Kaiser Family Foundation poll, July 25-Aug. 5, 2012, of 3,130 adults; margin of error: +/-2 percentage points; Graphic: Judy Treible © 2012 MCT

The Madison, N.C., company sold 1.1 million rifles and shotguns last year, along with 2 billion rounds of ammunition. Its customers include law enforcement and military agencies, as well as retailers who serve hunters and gun enthusiasts.

Cerberus, a large private-equity firm best known for investing in Chrysler and other troubled corporations, appeared to have been under pressure from two sources: investors and the threat of more gun control.

Officials at California's huge teacher pension fund said they were reviewing a \$600 million investment in Cerberus in light of the Connecticut shooting. Through its stake in Cerberus, the California State Teachers' Retirement System owns a 2.4 percent stake in Freedom Group.

Pension fund spokesman Michael Sicilia confirmed the fund owns about \$4 million in shares of Sturm Ruger & Co. and \$1.7 million in Smith and Wesson.

Cerberus filed papers in 2009 to take Freedom Group public, but it withdrew the bid in 2011 without saying why. A Cerberus spokesman declined to comment Tuesday beyond the company's statement.

Freedom Group has lost money in four of the last five years, according to financial filings on its website. Revenue in 2011 was \$775 million, down from \$848.7 million in 2009. Slightly more than half of its 2011 revenue came from guns, much of the rest from ammunition.

Governor names team to review Detroit finances

DETROIT (AP)—Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder appointed six people Tuesday to conduct a 60-day review of Detroit's municipal finances and decide if the state should put an emergency manager in charge of the city's checkbook, the state Treasury Department says.

Department spokesman Terry Stanton said the team includes Treasurer Andy Dillon, who determined last week that Detroit's budget was off track and headed toward a crash.

The city now is operating under a consent agreement between Mayor Dave Bing and the Snyder administration designed to head off the

appointment of an emergency financial manager.

"My administration has worked, and will continue to work in collaboration, with Mayor Bing and city officials to ensure a revitalized and successful Detroit," the Republican governor said in a statement. "However, given the financial crisis that continues to grip the City of Detroit, we must move quickly to ensure city residents have continued access to essential services they expect and deserve."

Bing said Tuesday's announcement was "no surprise."

"The state had indicated last week that it planned to appoint

a financial review team," the Democratic mayor said Tuesday night. "My administration will continue to focus on my restructuring plan, in cooperation with the City Council, to hopefully eliminate the need for an emergency financial manager."

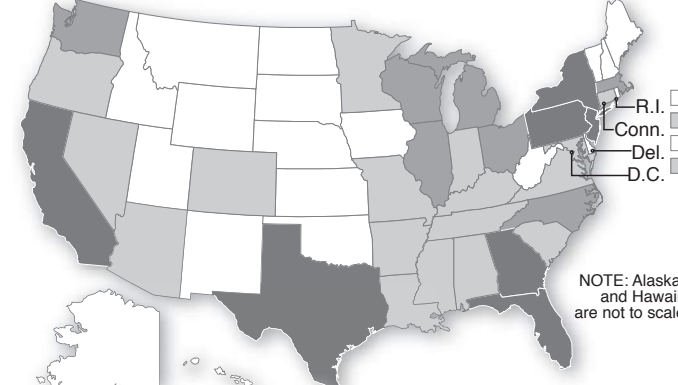
Bing has said he will lay off 400 to 500 city employees in the new year, roughly 5 percent of the workforce.

Detroit is billions of dollars in debt and has a budget deficit topping \$200 million. It's been meeting payroll and paying bills from millions of dollars in bond money from a state-controlled escrow account.

Losing jobless benefits

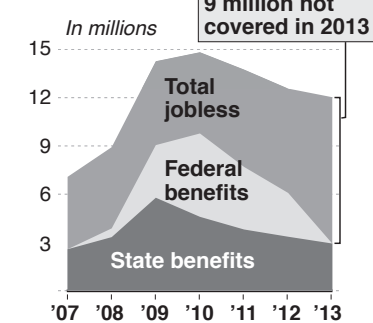
More than two million people will lose unemployment benefits in December if Congress does not extend the emergency program. Number of people by state who would lose benefits:

■ Less than 10,000 ■ 10,000-39,000 ■ 40,000-99,000 ■ 100,000 or more



Downsizing benefits

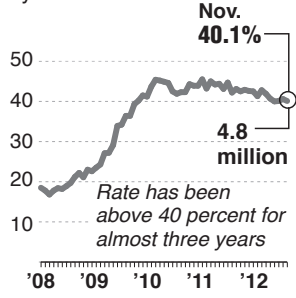
Number of unemployed workers since 2007 covered by state or federal benefits



Source: House Ways and Means Committee, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Employment Law Project Graphic: Judy Treible © 2012 MCT

Long-term jobless

The percentage of workers unemployed for longer than six months, by month



Source: House Ways and Means Committee, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Employment Law Project Graphic: Judy Treible © 2012 MCT

Too big to jail? Execs avoid laundering charges

NEW YORK (AP)—When the Justice Department announced its record \$1.9 billion settlement against British bank HSBC last week, prosecutors called it a powerful blow to a dysfunctional institution accused of laundering money for Iran, Libya and Mexico's murderous drug cartels.

But to some former federal prosecutors, it was only the latest case of the government stopping short of bringing criminal money laundering charges against a big bank or its executives, at least in part on the rationale that such prosecutions could be devastating enough to cause such banks to fail.

They say it sounds a lot like the "too big to fail" meme that kept big but sickly banks alive on the support of taxpayer-

funded bailouts. In these cases, they call it, "Too big to jail."

"Shame on the Department of Justice. Shame on them," said Jimmy Gurulé, a former federal prosecutor who teaches law at the University of Notre Dame.

"These are actions that facilitated major international drug cartels to continue their operations," he said. "Now, if that doesn't justify criminal prosecution, I can't imagine a case that would."

Oregon Democratic Sen. Jeff Merkley shot off a letter to U.S. Attorney Eric Holder after the HSBC settlement, saying the government "appears to have firmly set the precedent that no bank, bank employee, or bank executive can be prosecuted even for serious criminal actions if that bank is

a large, systemically important financial institution."

Neil Barofsky, the former inspector general of the government's Troubled Asset Relief Program and a former federal prosecutor in New York, warned that big banks could interpret the Justice Department's leniency as "a license to steal."

Since 2009, several European banks have paid heavy settlements related to allegations they moved money for people or companies on the U.S. sanctions list: Switzerland's Credit Suisse, \$536 million; British bank Barclays, \$298 million; British bank Lloyds, \$350 million; Dutch bank ING, \$619 million; and the Royal Bank of Scotland, \$500 million for alleged money laundering at Dutch bank ABN Amro.

Nation

Classes resume in Newtown, minus Sandy Hook



A young girl waves as her school bus pulls into Hawley School, Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2012, in Newtown, Conn. Classes resumed Tuesday for Newtown, schools except those at Sandy Hook, following Friday's mass shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School.

NEWTOWN, Conn. (AP)—Newtown returned its students to their classrooms Tuesday for the first time since last week's massacre and faced the agonizing task of laying others to rest, as this grieving town wrestled with the same issues gripping the country: violence, gun control and finding a way forward.

Funerals were held for two more of the tiny fallen, a 6-year-old boy and a 6-year-old girl. A total of 26 people were gunned down at Sandy Hook Elementary School in one of the worst mass shootings in U.S. history. The gunman also killed his mother in her home, before committing suicide.

The resumption of classes at all Newtown's schools except Sandy Hook brought a return of familiar routines, something students seemed to welcome as they arrived aboard buses festooned with large green-and-white ribbons—the colors of the

stricken elementary school.

"We're going to be able to comfort each other and try and help each other get through this, because that's the only way we're going to do it," said 17-year-old P.J. Hickey, a senior at Newtown High School. "Nobody can do this alone."

Still, he noted: "There's going to be no joy in school. It really doesn't feel like Christmas anymore."

At St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Newtown, back-to-back funerals were held for first-graders James Mattioli and Jessica Rekos, the third and fourth so far and the first of eight to be held in the coming days at the church. Memorial services and wakes were also held for some of the adult victims.

As mourners gathered outside, a motorcade led by police motorcycles arrived for the funeral of little James, who especially loved recess and math and who was de-

scribed by his family as a "numbers guy" who couldn't wait until he was old enough to order a foot-long Subway sandwich.

Traffic in front of the church slowed to a crawl as police directed vehicles into the parking lot. At one point, a school bus carrying elementary students got stuck in traffic, and the children, pressing their faces into the windows, sadly watched as the mourners assembled.

Inside the church, James' mother stood and remembered her son.

"It was very somber, it was very sad, it was very moving," said Clare Savarese, who taught the boy in preschool and recalled him as "a lovely little boy, a sweet little angel."

The service had not yet concluded when mourners began arriving for the funeral of Jessica, who loved horses and was counting the years until she turned 10, when her family had promised

her a horse of her own. For Christmas, she had asked Santa for new cowgirl boots and hat.

"We are devastated, and our hearts are with the other families who are grieving as we are," her parents, Rich and Krista Rekos, said in a statement.

At a wake for 27-year-old first-grade teacher Victoria Soto, hundreds of mourners, many wearing green-and-white ribbons, stood in a line that wrapped around a funeral home in nearby Stratford, Conn.

"Big smile, great eyes, just a wonderful person," Lauren Ostrofsky said of Soto, who was killed as she tried to shield her students from the gunman. "If anyone could be an example of what a person should be today, it's her."

Tensions in the shattered community ran high as the grief of parents and townspeople collided with the crush of media reporting on the shootings and the funerals.

Benghazi review finds systematic security faults

WASHINGTON (AP)—An independent panel charged with investigating the deadly Sept. 11 attack in Libya that killed a U.S. ambassador and three other Americans has concluded that systematic management and leadership failures at the State Department led to "grossly" inadequate security at the mission in Benghazi.

"Systematic failures and leadership and management deficiencies at senior levels within two bureaus of the State Department resulted in a Special Mission security posture that was inadequate for Benghazi and grossly inadequate to deal with

the attack that took place," the panel said.

The report singled out the Bureau of Diplomatic Security and the Bureau of Near East Affairs for criticism, saying there appeared to be a lack of cooperation and confusion over protection at the mission in Benghazi, a city in Eastern Libya that was relatively lawless after the revolution that toppled Libyan strongman Moammar Gadhafi.

Despite those failures, the Accountability Review Board determined that no individual officials ignored or violated their duties and recommended no disciplinary action now. But

it also said poor performance by senior managers should be grounds for disciplinary recommendations in the future.

The report appeared to break little new ground about the timeline of the Benghazi attack during which Libyan Ambassador Chris Stevens, information specialist Sean Smith and former Navy SEALs Glen Doherty and Tyrone Woods—who were contractors working for the CIA—were killed. Stevens' slaying was the first of a U.S. ambassador since 1988.

But it confirmed that contrary to initial accounts, there was no protest outside the

consulate and said responsibility for the incident rested entirely with the terrorists who attacked the mission.

In the immediate aftermath of the attack, administration officials linked the attack to the spreading protests over an American-made, anti-Islamic film that had begun in Cairo earlier that day. Those comments came after evidence already pointed to a distinct militant attack. U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice appeared on numerous TV talk shows the Sunday after the attack and used the administration talking points linking it to the film.

Congressional backing grows for gun control debate

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congressional gun rights supporters showed an increased willingness Tuesday to consider new legislation to control firearms in the aftermath of the Connecticut school shootings—provided it also addresses mental health issues and the impact of violent video games.

A former co-chairman of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, Democratic Rep. Mike Thompson, D-Calif., and 10-term House Republican Jack Kingston—a Georgia lawmaker elected with strong National Rifle Association backing—were the latest to join the call to consider gun control as part of a comprehensive, anti-violence effort next year.

"Put guns on the table, also put video games on the table, put mental health on the table," Kingston said.

But he added that nothing should be done immediately, saying, "There is a time for mourning and a time to sort it out. I look forward to sorting it out and getting past the grief stage."

With the nation's nerves still raw over the murders of 20 elementary school children and six teachers, White House spokesman Jay Carney said President Barack Obama was "actively supportive" of a plan by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., to introduce legislation to reinstate an assault weapons ban. While

Obama has long supported a ban, he exerted little effort to get it passed during his first term.

Meanwhile, the National Rifle Association, silent since the shootings, said in a statement that it "is prepared to offer meaningful contributions to help make sure this never happens again." There was no indication what that might entail. The group, the best-known defender of gun rights in America, scheduled a news conference for Friday.

On Capitol Hill, Feinstein is likely to become chairman next year of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which may get the first crack at considering firearms legislation.

Carney said the president also would support legislation that closes a gun show "loophole," which allows people to buy guns from private dealers without a background check. And he says Obama would be "interested in looking at" legislation to restrict high capacity ammunition clips.

The spokesman said Obama was heartened by growing support on Capitol Hill for a national discussion on gun violence, particularly from seemingly unlikely lawmakers. The president spoke on the phone Tuesday with West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, a conservative Democrat and avid hunter, who said after the Connecticut shootings that "everything should be on the table" in those discussions.

ACROSS THE NATION

Utah boy brings gun to school, cites Newtown fears

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A Utah sixth-grader caught with a gun at school told administrators he brought the weapon to defend himself in case of an attack similar to last week's mass shooting at a Connecticut school, officials said Tuesday. The 11-year-old was being held in juvenile detention on suspicion of possessing a dangerous weapon and aggravated assault after other students at the suburban Salt Lake City elementary school told police he threatened them with the handgun. Teachers and administrators at West Kearns Elementary School confronted the boy in class Monday after students reported the weapon, said Granite School District spokesman Ben Horsley. The boy had an unloaded gun and ammunition in his backpack, Horsley said.

13 surrender in Illinois fraternity drinking death

CHICAGO (AP)—About half of the 22 fraternity members charged with hazing after a pledge died following a night of heavy drinking in Illinois had turned themselves in as of Tuesday night, police said. Members of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity were charged after an investigation into the Nov. 2 death of NIU freshman David Bogenberger, 19. He was found unresponsive at the fraternity house in DeKalb, the community about 65 miles west of Chicago that's home to Northern Illinois University. The DeKalb County Coroner's Office said toxicology results found his blood alcohol content was about five times the legal limit for driving. Police Lt. Jason Leverson said the DeKalb Police Department has seen other hazing incidents in the past, but they typically have involved a handful of people suspected of hazing one or two others. He said this case was different because of the number of people—both pledges and fraternity members—believed to have been involved.

Asia

Both SKorean presidential hopefuls promise change



A South Korean woman casts her vote for the presidential election at a local polling station in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2012.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Koreans bundled-up in thick mufflers and parkas braved frigid weather Wednesday to choose between the liberal son of North Korean refugees and the conservative daughter of a late dictator. For all their differences, the presidential candidates hold similar views on the need to engage with Pyongyang and other issues.

One big reason: Many voters are dissatisfied with current President Lee Myung-bak, including with his hard-line stance on the country's authoritarian rival to the north. Park Geun-hye,

who belongs to Lee's party, has had to tack to the center in her bid to become South Korea's first woman president.

Earlier polls showed Park and liberal candidate Moon Jae-in in a dead heat in the race to lead Asia's fourth-largest economy and an important U.S. security bulwark in the region.

"Everything's now at heaven's disposal," Moon told reporters at a polling station in the southeastern port city of Busan. "I have put forward every bit of my energy."

Park, a five-term lawmaker, voted in Seoul and said she hoped the election would "open

a new era" for their nation.

South Koreans express deepening worry about the economy and disgust over the alleged involvement of aides close to Lee in corruption scandals. Many voters blame Lee's hardline views for encouraging North Korea to conduct nuclear and missile tests—including a rocket launch by Pyongyang last week that outsiders call a cover for a banned long-range missile test. Some also say ragged North-South relations led to two attacks blamed on Pyongyang that killed 50 South Koreans in 2010.

Gunmen kill 5 female polio workers in Pakistan

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—Gunmen shot dead five women working on U.N.-backed polio vaccination efforts in two different Pakistani cities on Tuesday, officials said, a major setback for a campaign that international health officials consider vital to contain the crippling disease but which Taliban insurgents say is a cover for espionage.

Pakistan is one of only three countries where polio is endemic. Militants however ac-

cuse health workers of acting as spies for the U.S. and claim the vaccine makes children sterile. Taliban commanders in the troubled northwest tribal region have also said vaccinations can't go forward until the U.S. stops drone strikes in the country.

Insurgent opposition to the campaign grew last year after it was revealed that a Pakistani doctor ran a fake vaccination program to help the CIA track

down al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden, who was hiding in the town of Abbottabad in the country's northwest.

The Taliban have targeted previous anti-polio campaigns, but this has been a particularly deadly week. The government is in the middle of a three-day vaccination drive targeting high risk areas of the country as part of an effort to immunize millions of children under the age of five.

confirmed Kimura's status Tuesday, calling him "the pride of our town." Kimura, born April 19, 1897, is 15 days younger than his predecessor, Dina Manfredini, who died in Iowa less than two weeks after inheriting the title as the world's oldest living person. Kimura, a former postal employee, has 14 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren and 13 great-great-grandchildren. He lives with his son's family.

Nepalis angry over killer elephant attack police

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Police in Nepal say angry villagers have attacked a police station while demanding that officers gun down an elephant that has killed at least four people. Police official Deepak Thapa said hundreds of protesters in the southern district of Chitwan also vandalized police vehicles. Police fired tear gas to control the mob. The elephant killed a couple on Saturday and at least two other people last month in the villages bordering the Chitwan forest. Thapa says soldiers have been sent inside the forest to try to capture or kill the elephant.

World

Iraqi President Talabani suffers a stroke

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraqi President Jalal Talabani has suffered a stroke and was in intensive care at a Baghdad hospital Tuesday, injecting the new uncertainty into the country's political future a year after the U.S. military left.

Although his official powers are limited, Talabani, 79, is respected by many Iraqis as a



Talabani

rare unifying figure seen as able to rise above the ethnic and sectarian rifts that still divide the country. Known for his joking manner and walrus-like moustache, Talabani has been actively involved in trying to mediate an ongoing crisis between Iraq's central government and the country's ethnic Kurdish minority, from which he hails.

Iraqi state TV and several officials, including the prime minister's spokesman and Deputy Prime Minister Saleh al-Mutlaq, confirmed to The Associated Press that Talabani had a stroke. The severity remains unclear.

Talabani's spokesman, Nasser al-Ani, told reporters that the president is in stable condition, though he did not say what he

was suffering from. Medical officials who appeared with him were just as circumspect. They did not take questions.

"The president's health is being closely followed up by our medical team. The vital organs are working and we hope that there will be no deterioration," said Dr. Ayad Abbas from the intensive care unit where Talabani is being treated. "We hope

that we will see improvement in the coming hours."

The presidential office initially said Tuesday that Talabani was hospitalized the previous evening after showing signs of fatigue. A later statement cited tests showing he is suffering from a condition caused by a hardening of his arteries. It did not identify the condition.

Some local media reports suggested that Talabani had died, but Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari said that was not the case.

Rifle-toting soldiers assigned to the presidential guard were deployed around Medical City, Baghdad's largest medical complex, where Talabani is being treated. A number of senior government officials and lawmakers were seen rushing to the hospital to check on his condition, though their bodyguards were mostly not being allowed inside.

Egypt's Alexandria gripped by feud over future

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (AP)—The Qaed Ibrahim mosque, revered by Alexandrines as the embodiment of their Mediterranean city's cosmopolitan heritage, has become a battleground between the two visions fighting over the future of Egypt, literally.

When prominent ultraconservative cleric Sheik Ahmed el-Mahalawi denounced opponents of the Islamist-backed draft constitution as "followers of heretics" in a sermon, angry protests erupted, turning into clashes between sword-wielding supporters of the cleric and rock-throwing opponents, while police did nothing. The 87-year-old el-Mahalawi was trapped inside for over 12 hours during the battle, while protesters outside tried to free several of their comrades detained—and beaten, they say—in the mosque.

Afterward, powerful Islamist groups in Egypt's second largest city threatened to deploy their own armed militias in the streets to protect their symbols.

Alexandria is often seen as a predictor of Egypt's trends—one prominent local writer, Alaa Khaled, calls it "Egypt's subconscious," where the country's true nature comes out.

So the battle at Qaed Ibrahim last Friday could be a sign of the volatile direction Egypt's political crisis is taking. On one side, Islamists threaten to take up arms to defend what they call their right to propagate Islamic rule. On the other, a cocktail of young, secular, revolution-minded activists have grown bolder in rebelling against their domination, willing to directly assault long untouchable religious symbols like mosques.

Ostensibly, Egypt's crisis is centered on a controversial draft constitution that would bring greater rule by Islamic law. A first round of voting in a referendum on the charter took place last Saturday, and the final round is to be held the coming Saturday—with the "yes" vote so far ahead by a slim 56 percent margin.

But more broadly, it is a conflict of visions. The opposition accuse President Mohammed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood and his Islamist allies of steamrolling anyone who disagrees with them and imposing their domination. Many of Morsi's supporters, in turn, vow to defend "God's law" and accuse liberals and secular opponents of trying to subvert their election victories the past year. Both sides have brought mass crowds into the streets around the country the past weeks.

Mexico says some 80 cartels at work in country

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico's new attorney general said Tuesday that as many as 80 small and medium-size drug cartels are operating in the country, a number far higher than the last formal government assessment.

Attorney General Jesus Murillo Karam's critique extended an attack by the new Mexican government on the security policy of former President Felipe Calderon, who focused on killing and capturing the heads of cartels.

This week, the new administration of President Enrique Pena Nieto began blaming that strategy for splintering Mexico's relatively few large cartels into a larger number of more

dangerous small and mid-size organizations.

Murillo Karam told MVS Radio that officials are working to identify all the country's 60-80 small- and mid-size drug trafficking organizations. In its last public evaluation of the strength of Mexico's cartels, the Calderon administration issued an August report naming only eight large drug organizations. It had, however, said that at least one cartel, the Beltran Leyva group, had split into smaller fragments after a government offensive that killed its leader.

Murillo elaborated on the new administration's critique of the Calderon strategy, holding it directly responsible for a rise in kidnappings and related

crimes over the last six years.

"It led to the seconds-in-command, generally the most violent, the most capable of killing ... starting to be empowered and generating their own groups, generating another type of crime—spawning kidnapping, extortion and protection rackets," he said.

Interior Secretary Miguel Angel Osorio Chong launched the critique of Calderon's strategy by telling a meeting of the National Security Council on Monday that financial resources dedicated to security had more than doubled but crime had increased, and with the capture of dozens of drug capos, drug cartels had splintered and become more dangerous.

ASIAN BRIEFS

6 Chinese officials fired after school stabbing

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese state media say six officials have been fired after a man hacked and injured 23 elementary school students with a knife in central China's Henan province. The official Xinhua News Agency said Tuesday that two school principals, two township police officers, one township safety official and one county education official were sacked after Friday's hacking incident in Chenpeng village, Guangshan county. County officials confirmed the firings Tuesday but said they did not know the specific reasons cited for the removal of the six officials.

Japanese man, 115, becomes world's oldest person

TOKYO (AP)—A Japanese mayor has hailed a resident of his city for becoming the world's oldest person. At 115 years old, Jiroemon Kimura inherited the title from an American woman who died Monday. Yasushi Nakayama, the mayor of Kyotango, near Japan's ancient capital of Kyoto,

Focus

Around world, massacres have spurred gun control

DUNBLANE, Scotland (AP)—If there's anywhere that understands the pain of Newtown, it's Dunblane, the town whose grief became a catalyst for changes to Britain's gun laws.

In March 1996, a 43-year-old man named Thomas Hamilton walked into a primary school in this central Scotland town of 8,000 people and shot to death 16 kindergarten-age children and their teacher with four legally held handguns. In the weeks that followed, people in the town formed the Snow-drop campaign—named for the first flower of spring—to press for a ban on handguns. Within weeks, it had collected 750,000 signatures. By the next year, the ban had become law.

It is a familiar pattern around the world—from Britain to Australia, grief at mass shootings has been followed by swift political action to tighten gun laws.

Many in the United States are calling for that to happen there, too, after the shooting of 20 children as young as six at a school in Newtown, Connecticut. Many other Americans are adamant the laws should not change.

In Dunblane, residents have been gathering at the town's massacre memorial to sign a book of condolence—but are loath to advise grieving Americans what to do.

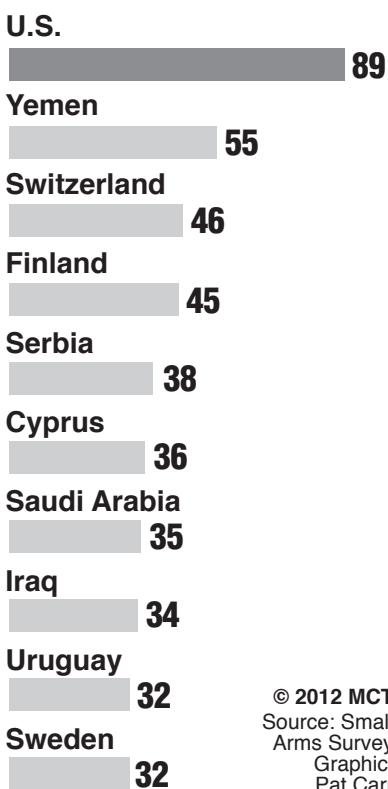
"It is not for us to tell the U.S. about gun control. That is for the people there," said Terence O'Brien, a member of the Dunblane community council. "What happened here was similar in many respects, but the wider culture is different."

When it comes to guns, the United States is exceptional. The U.S. has the highest civilian gun ownership rate in the world, with 89 guns per 100 people, according to the Geneva-based Small Arms Survey.

Gun advocates, including the powerful lobby group the National Rifle Association, have blocked attempts to toughen American gun laws in the

Civilian gun ownership

Countries with the highest average number of firearms per 100 people, 2011 or latest:



© 2012 MCT
Source: Small Arms Survey
Graphic: Pat Carr



In this May 1, 2002, demonstrators hold a banner reading "No private possession of firearms" during a march five days after a 19-year-old former student shot 16 people before killing himself in a rampage shooting at a high school, in Erfurt, eastern Germany. AP

wake of previous mass shootings. Gun supporters say that the right to bear arms, enshrined in the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, makes firearms ownership a civil rights issue, rather than simply an issue of public safety.

Supporters of gun control often cite Australia's dramatic response to a 1996 shooting spree in the southern state of Tasmania that killed 35 people.

The slaughter sparked outrage across the country and within 12 days federal and state governments had agreed to impose strict new gun laws, including a ban on semi-automatic rifles like the Colt AR-15 used by the Tasmania killer. The Connecticut killer used a similar, rapid-firing weapon.

Gun ownership was restricted to people with genuine need or sporting

shooters with gun club membership. Some 700,000 guns were bought back and destroyed by the federal government from owners who no longer qualified to possess them.

The changes were unpopular with politicians from rural areas with high numbers of hunters and farmers. But, as in Britain after Dunblane, the strength of public opinion swayed politicians from both government and opposition parties.

Gun laws also were strengthened in Canada after the 1989 slaying of 14 female engineering students in Montreal by a woman-hating gunman, and in Germany after a 19-year-old expelled student killed 16 people, including 12 teachers, in Erfurt in 2002.

Even gun-loving Finland—with 45

firearms for every 100 people—tightened its laws after two school shootings in 2007 and 2008, raising the minimum age for firearms ownership and giving police greater powers to make background checks on individuals applying for a gun license.

Did it work? In Australia's case, the change appears dramatic. There were a dozen mass shootings with at least five deaths in the country between 1981 and the Tasmania massacre; there have been none in the 16 years since.

Studies have tracked a reduction in gun deaths in Australia since the 1996 reforms, particularly in suicides. The Journal Injury Prevention reported in 2006 that the risk of dying by gunshot had halved in Australia in a decade.

In 2010 in Australia, there were 0.1

gun murders per 100,000 people, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, less than half the rate of a decade earlier. In the United States the murder rate was more than 30 times higher, at 3.2 per 100,000.

The connection looks simple—countries with tighter gun laws and fewer guns have lower levels of gun crime.

But experts say it is not quite so straightforward.

"The irony in the U.K. is that in the four years from 1998 when handguns were fully banned, gun crime continued to rise," said Peter Squires, a professor of criminology at the University of Brighton. "We were in a phase in the 1990s when street gangs were becoming the new urban disorder ... and we were hit by a whole new problem of converted and replica and reactivated guns."

In the long run Squire thinks the change in law did make a difference. Gun crime in Britain has been falling since its peak in 2002—a decline also seen in other Western countries—and there are now only a few dozen firearms homicides each year.

But, he said, "for the first four years it played into the classic NRA script that gun control has failed."

The U.S. gun lobby sometimes cites peaceful, alpine Switzerland as an example of a country that has many privately owned guns and little violent crime.

Like the United States, it has a strong gun culture and with plentiful shooting clubs—but also a mass citizen militia. Members of the part-time militia, in which most men serve, are allowed to keep their weapons at home, and the country of less than 8 million people owns at least 2.3 million weapons, many stashed under beds and in cupboards.

But while Swiss homes contain guns, but little ammunition, which is largely kept under lock and key at local military depots. Most adult gun users have military training.

And Switzerland went through its own soul-searching after a man named Friedrich Leibacher went on the rampage in the regional parliament in the wealthy northern Swiss city of Zug in September 2001. He killed 14 people and himself, apparently over a grudge against a local official.

The massacre, along with a campaign to reduce Switzerland's high level of gun suicide, led to a referendum last year. It proposed that military-issued firearms must be locked in secure army depots and would have banned the sale of fully automatic weapons and pump-action rifles.

Voters decisively rejected it.

Those who believe tighter gun laws are necessary acknowledge they are no panacea. Norway has strict gun controls, but Anders Behring Breivik shot 69 people dead in July 2011 with a pistol and a rifle he acquired legally by joining a shooting club and taking a hunting course.

But gun control advocates say the alternative is worse.

"There is no act of Parliament, no act of Congress, that can guarantee there'll never be a massacre," former British Cabinet minister Jack Straw, who as home secretary brought in the country's handgun ban in 1997, said Sunday. "However, the more you tighten the law, the more you reduce the risk."

Environment

Big trees vanishing across the globe, study finds

By **SANDI DOUGHTON**
THE SEATTLE TIMES

SEATTLE—It's not news to Northwesterners that most of the giant firs and cedars that once dominated the region's forests are long gone, felled by decades of logging.

But a review of ecosystems around the world finds that big trees are vanishing almost everywhere—and aren't being replaced.

"What we're seeing is a global phenomenon," said ecologist David Lindenmayer of Australian National University, lead author of a paper published in the Dec. 7 edition of the journal *Science*. "There are different sets of drivers—it might be fire, logging, drought, disease—but they all lead to basically the same outcome."

The loss of big, old trees can

be devastating to thousands of other species that nest and take shelter in their branches and cavities, said University of Washington forestry professor Jerry Franklin, a co-author of the paper.

In some forests, nearly a third of all birds, reptiles, mammals or marsupials make their homes in ancient trees, the scientists reported. Gnarled, old trees also produce a bounty of seeds to replenish the forests and are a vital source of food.

"These big, old trees are really important elements of many forests and many landscapes," said Franklin, who was a key player in the 1990s-era battle to protect the remnants of the Pacific Northwest's famed old-growth forests. "An old tree tends to be very idiosyncratic, just like we are as human beings."

Though the causes for the de-

cline are diverse, all involve the common denominator of human intervention.

In Scandinavia, logging companies are simply targeting the biggest, oldest trees, the researchers found.

On the savannas of Northern Australia, nonnative grasses planted to improve cattle and sheep grazing burn seven times hotter than native grass, decimating trees that weathered centuries of normal fire.

If the rate of loss doesn't abate, all of the trees in the region—both old and young—will be gone in 50 years, Lindenmayer said.

In Brazil, where rain forests have been reduced to fragments, old trees are much more vulnerable to being toppled by wind and parasitized by strangler vines that proliferate after logging.

Many forest ecosystems are

so altered by invasive species, human management and shifting climate that young trees no longer are able to grow into behemoths, the scientists said.

Infestations of a plant called lantana smother seedlings in some parts of India, Lindenmayer said.

In the mountain-ash forests of Southern Australia, where he's worked for nearly three decades, cycles of fire followed by salvage logging prevent forests from maturing.

Forestry experts have long been aware of the decline of big trees, said Oregon State University professor Mark Harmon, who was not involved in the analysis.

But the *Science* paper is one of the first attempts to pull together evidence from different parts of the world and make the argument that big trees deserve

special consideration.

"Maybe it will change the mindset," Harmon said.

Lindenmayer got interested in big trees while tracking the fate of Australia's equivalent of the northern spotted owl: the Leadbeater's possum, a 4-inch, big-eyed marsupial that can only nest in ash trees at least 200 years old.

Unless the country takes steps to protect the ancient ash trees, the world's tallest flowering plants, the possum is headed for extinction, he said.

In the Pacific Northwest, legal wrangling over the old-growth-dependent owl led the federal government to restrict logging on millions of acres of federal forest in Washington and Oregon. During the debate, Franklin proposed a more eco-friendly alternative to clear-cutting that leaves

some trees standing.

But there's still no nationwide policy that singles out big, old trees for protection or works to ensure that young trees are able to replace their elders, he said.

"We're dramatically reducing the number of big trees," Franklin said. "As part of our active management, we need to be planning to restore historic levels of those big, old trees."

The scientists compared the decline of ancient trees to the decimation of tigers, whales and other large mammals. After decades of protection, many slow-growing species like the blue whale are still hovering on the brink of extinction, Lindenmayer pointed out.

"The stakes are very high," he said. "Big trees can be lost very quickly, but it can take centuries for them to be replaced."

EPA toughens limits on soot

By **NEELA BANERJEE**
TRIBUNE WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—The Obama administration announced new air pollution standard Friday that would bring about a 20 percent reduction in microscopic particles of soot emitted by coal-fired power plants and diesel vehicles that contribute to haze and respiratory ailments.

The new limit, fought by industry and welcomed by environmentalists, marks the first time the Environmental Protection Agency tightened the soot standard since it was established 15 years ago.

"These standards are fulfilling the promise of the Clean Air Act," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "We will save lives and reduce the burden of illness in our communities, and families across the country will benefit from the simple fact of being able to breathe cleaner air."

Fine particles from burning fossil fuels can penetrate deep into the lungs and lead to heart attacks, acute asthma and premature death, according to the EPA. The new limit that the EPA set for an annual average of airborne fine particles in a given jurisdiction is 12 micrograms per cubic meter, down from 15 micrograms established in 1997.

Industry attacked the standard as onerous and of dubious benefit to public health—and a sign of more regulation in the future.

"We fear this new rule may be just the beginning of a 'regulatory cliff' that includes forthcoming ozone rules, the refinery sector rules, pending greenhouse gas regulations for refineries," said Howard Feldman, director

of regulatory and scientific affairs at the American Petroleum Institute, the oil industry's main lobby. "It makes no sense to risk economic harm when the public health necessity of these regulations is ambiguous at best."

Recent research by the Harvard School of Public Health has shown that reducing fine particle pollution even by small amounts can lead to an increase in life expectancy.

The EPA estimated that by 2030, the reduction in soot "from diesel vehicles and equipment alone" could prevent up to 40,000 premature deaths and 4.7 million days of work lost due to illness. The agency estimates that it would cost industry \$53 million to \$350 million annually to comply with the new standard. But it estimated the annual savings in health care and other costs to be around \$4 billion to \$9.1 billion.

Right now, 99 percent of U.S. counties are already in compliance with the new standard, the EPA said. Of the remaining counties that will be out of compliance, many of them will be in California, the EPA said. States have until 2018 to submit their plans to meet the new standards and then until 2020 to comply. Moreover, they could ask for an extension until 2025 "depending on the severity of an area's fine particle pollution problems and the availability of pollution controls," the EPA said.

The new soot limit is the result of a lawsuit brought by several East Coast states, led by New York, against the EPA. Soot pollution in the East is largely from coal-fired plants. California's high levels of soot can be traced back to diesel-fueled transportation on its roads and its ports, which can make it harder to meet the new standards.

DO YOUR PART



From paint to plants, a lot of what we put in our living rooms can make big impact. Choose paints that are labeled no or low VOC. The costs of ones that don't emit volatile organic compounds are comparable to conventional ones and they last just as long.

Healthier living-room checklist

By **TERRI BENNETT**
MCT INFORMATION SERVICES

Going green at home doesn't mean spending a whole lot of money on home improvements or investing in expensive pieces of furniture or the latest and greatest in green technology. Instead, there are ways to find all sorts of ways to use less, waste less, and save more without blowing your budget. Today I'm focusing on how to Do Your Part in the living room for a healthier home.

SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY

Start with the small stuff such as sealing up leaks around doors and windows. Caulk and weather stripping are inexpensive and a quick fix for rising energy costs. Since the fireplace is an easy target for hot air to escape, a fireplace plug for around \$60 can put a stop to that waste. Also, pick better light bulbs. There are many energy efficient ones available including

CFLs, LEDs, and halogens. Check out DoYourPart.com/Columns to see which ones work best in your particular fixtures. Another thing that adds to your electric costs are electronics that sip electricity even when not being used. Using a power strip with an on/off button will put an end to that expensive phantom power.

SHOP FOR SAFER FURNITURE AND FLOORING

Furniture made from medium density fiberboard (MDF) and some furniture adhesives can contain a formaldehyde-based resin that can actually pollute the air inside your home. Seek out furniture that is specifically labeled formaldehyde-free. Buying used, wood furniture pieces are another way to have cleaner indoor air because many of those dangerous chemicals have already evaporated.

And, many popular choices of flooring also emit formaldehyde. Whether it is certain imitation wood floors or new carpet—

know what's in the flooring and the adhesives you use and choose safer options.

DECORATE RESPONSIBLY

From paint to plants, a lot of what we put in our living rooms can make big impact. Choose paints that are labeled no or low VOC. The costs of ones that don't emit volatile organic compounds are comparable to conventional ones and they last just as long. You'll also want to avoid pieces of upholstery and fabrics that are treated with synthetic chemicals that can get into the air and on our bodies. When choosing candles, opt for ones made of soy or beeswax rather than polluting petroleum products. And even a few plants placed around the living room can improve the air quality immediately.

Whether you're looking for ways to cut costs or clean up the air in your home, the living room is the perfect place to Do Your Part for healthier living.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of Do Your Part: A practical guide for everyday green living available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.

Life & Style

Tracking the story of the Russian Crown Jewels

Four previously undiscovered photos of undocumented Russian Crown Jewels were recently discovered in the USGS library. The photos appear in a 1922 album called "Russian Diamond Fund," that was uncovered in the rare book room of the library.

The four unique photos were originally part of the personal collection of George F. Kunz (1856-1932), a mineralogist and gemologist, gentleman explorer, and employee of the USGS and Tiffany & Co. These four photos are unique because they are not included in the official documentation of the Russian Crown Jewels, "Russia's Treasure of Diamonds and Precious Stones," published in 1925. The USGS also has a copy of this 1925 publication in Kunz's collection.

"Russia's Treasure of Diamonds and Precious Stones" is considered the most complete inventory of the Russian Crown Jewels and 22 of the photographs from Kunz's 1922 album appear to be the same images used in the official Russian 1925 publication. The four pieces portrayed in the album discovered by the USGS that do not appear in the later publication include a sapphire and diamond tiara, a sapphire bracelet, an emerald necklace, and a sapphire brooch

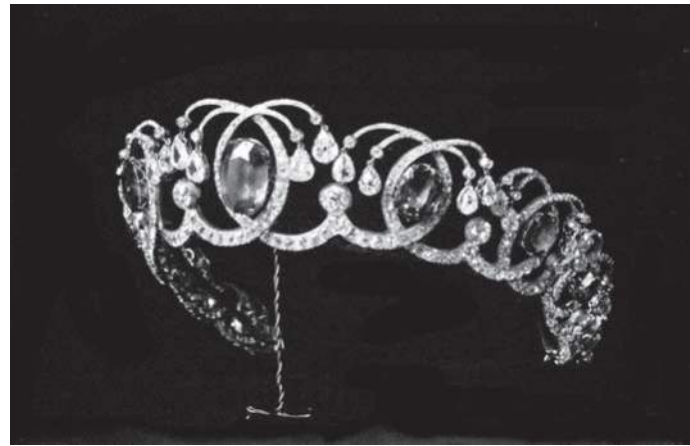


in the shape of a bow.

Researchers have determined that the sapphire brooch was sold in London in 1927, but the fate of the other three pieces is

a mystery to this day. USGS librarians are trying to trace the history with assistance from experts from around the world.

"This 1922 album contains



Previously undiscovered photo of undocumented Russian Crown Jewels were recently discovered in the USGS library. The photos appear in a 1922 album called "Russian Diamond Fund," that was uncovered in the rare book room of the library. These brooch and tiara were two of the four undocumented jewels.

photographs that document the Imperial Crown Jewels and augments the official 1925 catalog with images of pieces that were not previously known to exist," said USGS Library Director Richard Huffine. "The USGS has preserved this collection in obscurity for over 75 years, and now that it's been discovered, we're excited to share this material with the world to support research and understanding of these rare materials today."

"Russia's Treasure of Diamonds and Precious Stones" collection contains 100 unbound

plates with accompanying text and was published as the inventory of the Romanov jewels. The USGS Library's copy of "Russia's Treasure" is missing two plates, but is otherwise in excellent condition. A different copy of "Russia's Treasure of Diamonds and Precious Stones" sold on auction at Christie's in 2007 for £72,000, over \$141,984.

The album "Russian Diamond Fund," however, is believed to be the only copy in existence. The album begins with an exquisitely hand-colored title page, followed by 88 photographs of the Ro-

manov jewelry with descriptive captions in Russian.

The rich history of the Russian people is reflected in the origins of the Imperial Crown Jewels of Russia. The jewels were worn by the Romanov Royal Family (1613-1917) until they were seized by the new government during the Russian Revolution and secured in secret until 1922. In 1922 the jewels were unpacked and a full inventory taken. The "Russian Diamond Fund" album dates to the same year and the photographs appear to have been part of the initial inventory.

"These images are unique representations of a bygone era taken at a key moment for Russia, buried in quiet bookshelves for almost a hundred years, then rediscovered to add one more tiny but important part to the infinite puzzle of history," said USGS librarian Jenna Nolt.

Research was conducted by USGS librarians in collaboration with the Hillwood Museum and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and the Gemological Institute of America in Carlsbad, Calif. to find additional information on the historical value of the photographs and information on the four photographs of unique pieces from the 1922 album. (USGS)

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In loving memory of

†**Maria Leimworáál Flores Fitia**

Lovingly known as "Kitalang/Merr"

Born to life on January 22, 1957 and was called to her eternal rest on December 16, 2012.

In Her New Life, She Now Joins Her:

Parents: †Concepcion R. Fitia and †Vidad S. Fitia
Brothers: †Luis L. Fitia, †Bernardo L. Fitia, †Pablo L. Fitia, †Juan E. Fitia, †Herman E. Fitia, †Jose E. Fitia
Sister: †Cornelia E. Fitia
Son: †Vidad Fitia

Her Memories Will Forever Live in The Hearts of Her:

Children: John Rodney & Misai S. Fitia (Vallyn, Kayleena, Leahrameng, Aluugsoor, Leifuusaram); Kelvin David Fitia & Yuline S. Cruz; Julian James Fitia & Diana Lyn N. Jack; Visitacion Fitia & Olamai I. Fred (Johnavin James); Mandy Connie Fitia

Brothers: Gregorio F. Fitia and Children; Felix F. Fitia; Dominic E. & Guadalupe Fitia and Children; Noel F. Fitia; †Luis L. Fitia & Elena S. Fitia and Children, †Bernardo L. Fitia & Francisca S. Fitia and Children, †Pablo L. Fitia & †Rosalina S. Fitia and Children, †Juan E. Fitia & Rosa Igisomar and Children;

Sisters: Nieves F. Fitia and Children; Josepha F. Fitia and Children; Dolores F. Fitia and Child; Paula F. Fitia and Children; Ana F. & Shonkor Bishas and Children; †Cornelia E. Fitia and Children

Also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and Godchildren.

On Saturday, December 22, 2012 at 8:00 am our beloved's remains will be escorted from CHC to the family residence in Kagman III, phase 4. Viewing and Holy Rosary will be from 9:00 am – 2:30 pm. Her remains will be escorted to Santa Soledad Church where the Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 3:00 pm. Interment service will immediately follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Thank You – Olomwaay

The Family

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

†**CIRIACO F. MOSTALES**

June 18, 1929 – December 17, 2012

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Norberta S. Mostales

Children and Grandchildren:

Riolante S. & Rufina D. Mostales

(Rian & Christopher, Raymon & Evelyn, Joey & Kate, Lanie & Ric)

Godofredo S. & Reinita A. Mostales (Godfrey, Goldie)

Rommel S. & Raquel A. Mostales (Ronnel)

Cid S. & Grace C. Mostales (Ciuss, Curtis)

He is additionally survived with his numerous Great Grandchildren:

Krist Albert Suzara

Kerenza Suzara

Renae C. Mostales

Joshua C. Mostales

Joey Claude Mostales

Treyvon Smith

Latrell Franklin

Tiasha Green

Riasha Green

Daily Mass of Intentions is being celebrated at San Antonio Church at 6:00 pm and immediately followed by the Holy Rosary.

On Saturday, December 22, 2012 at 8:00 am, his remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel, Cabrera Center to San Antonio Church. Responso service will start at 8:30 am followed by the recitation of the Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 10:00am and immediately followed by the interment services at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers

Norberta S. Mostales, Children & Families

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\$6.00 Military with Valid I.D.
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Thursday, December 20th, 2012

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Monsters Inc. 3D

Thursday 7:05

Cast: John Goodman, Billy Crystal, Mary Gibbs
Genre: Animation, Family • Rated G

Synopsis

"Monsters, Inc.," one of Disney-Pixar's most beloved and visually imaginative feature films ever, returns to the big screen to delight a whole new generation of audiences and fans alike, this time in stunning 3D. The now-classic Academy Award®-winning animated comedy adventure "Monsters, Inc." is set in Monstropolis, a thriving company town where monsters of all shapes and sizes reside.



Monsters Inc. 2D

Thursday 4:05

Cast: John Goodman, Billy Crystal, Mary Gibbs
Genre: Animation, Family • Rated G



The Guilt Trip

Thursday 4:15 7:20

Cast: Seth Rogen, Barbra Streisand, Kathy Najimy
Genre: Comedy • Rated R



The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D

Thursday 4:20 7:45

Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13



The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 2D

Thursday 4:10 7:35

Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13



Rise of the Guardians 3D

Thursday 7:30

Cast: Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG



Red Dawn

Thursday 4:25 7:25

Chris Hemsworth, Josh Peck, Josh Hutcherson
Genre: Action • Rated PG13



Rise of the Guardians 2D

Thursday 4:30

Cast: Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Alec Baldwin
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG



Twilight: Breaking Dawn Part 2

Thursday 4:00 7:00

Cast: Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner
Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG13

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Jessica Chastain: 'I want to do it all'

NEW YORK (AP)—"I want to do everything!"

Jessica Chastain is getting animated. Even though she's managed to pack more films into an 18-month period than would seem physically possible and will, on this day, finish an afternoon of press interviews with an evening performance of "The Heiress" on Broadway, she's not lacking energy.

"I want to do crazy villains in comic book movies with accents and scars!" she continues, shining with childlike enthusiasm. "I want to do it all. I think I have to calm down and be like: You don't have to do it all, right now. Hopefully, you'll be around for a few years."

Sticking around is at this point assured for Chastain who last year emerged as an actress of seemingly limitless range, with throwback beauty and the subtlety of a chameleon. Due to various distribution delays, her talent was laid out all at once—her "reel," she calls it—in widely varied performances in "The Tree of Life," "Take Shelter," "The Help," "Coriolanus," "The Debt" and "Texas Killing Fields."

She hasn't let up. Along with the bootlegging crime film "Lawless," a voice role in the animated "Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted," and her currently running Broadway debut, Chastain is now starring in one of the most anticipated movies of the year: Kathryn Bigelow's docudrama of the hunt for Osama bin Laden, "Zero Dark Thirty."

"I never think about what's next," she says. "I always just think: What haven't I done yet?"

"Zero Dark Thirty" easily qualified. In it, she plays a dogged, obsessed CIA officer tracking bin Laden in a



In this Monday, Dec. 10, 2012 file photo, actress Jessica Chastain arrives at the premiere of the feature film "Zero Dark Thirty" at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.

decade-long search that leads from torturing detainees to intrepid detective work and finally to relentless advocacy for the Pakistan raid that would kill bin Laden.

The performance has already earned Chastain best actress nominations from the Golden Globes and the Screen Actors Guild, and she's widely expected to land her second Oscar nomination in two years (following one for "The Help," an honor she glowingly recalls as "crazy town").

Screenwriter Mark Boal based Chastain's character, Maya, on a real CIA officer whose identity remains classified. While Boal acknowledged

es Maya was dramatized for the sake of a film built around one character, Chastain believes the film is "100 percent accurate" in depicting the operative's large role in tracking down bin Laden.

Playing such a tough character, Chastain says, was her most difficult role yet because she had to build an emotional arc onto someone who speaks largely in jargon and refuses to detour her laser-like focus.

"Any subtext that I have, any part of the character's journey, I have to show through my technical dialogue and my transformation in the 10 years—what happens to my face, my hair, how I interact with people,"

says Chastain. "It has to be a more subtle approach. It has to be the kind of acting where you don't see the strings. With Celia (the ditzy Southern belle of "The Help"), you see the voice, you see all that stuff."

Seeing herself in one scene where Maya confronts and threatens her supervisor (Kyle Chandler) shocked Chastain who hadn't thought herself capable of evoking, she says, Incredible Hulk-like rage. As a contrast, Chastain, who describes herself as "a very emotional person," lightens the mood of a day discussing the grim "Zero Dark Thirty," by wearing a pink flowery dress and keeping a candle going.

Though Chastain's sensitivity and access to her emotions is part of what makes her a great actress, it made aspects of "Zero Dark Thirty" difficult—particularly the week spent in a Jordanian prison filming the brutal interrogation scenes. Those scenes, with a fellow operative played by Jason Clarke and a detainee played by Reda Kateb, have already sparked a renewed dialogue about the role torture played in tracking bin Laden.

"There was a 10 minute break while I cried. I had to go hide behind a building. I just lost it and started crying," she says. "I know I'm playing this woman who's supposed to be—it's her job—to be unemotional, but I still feel things. And I wasn't going to be able to do the scene again without letting out, without having a good cry."

Because of her busy schedule, Chastain nearly didn't do "Zero Dark Thirty"; she was slated to be filming something else at the time. Producer Megan Ellison, whose Annapurna Pictures financed the film and who knew Chastain from producing "Lawless," played the go-between.

CHART TOPPERS

The top 10 songs and albums on the iTunes Store for the week ending Dec. 17, 2012:

TOP SONGS

1. "Locked Out of Heaven," Bruno Mars
2. "I Knew You Were Trouble," Taylor Swift
3. "Ho Hey," The Lumineers
4. "Stupid Boy," Cassadee Pope
5. "Scream & Shout (feat. Britney Spears)," will.i.am
6. "Diamonds," Rihanna
7. "Beauty and a Beat (feat. Nicki Minaj)," Justin Bieber
8. "Thrift Shop (feat. Wanz)," Ryan Lewis, Macklemore
9. "Gangnam Style," PSY
10. "Die Young," Ke\$ha

TOP ALBUMS

1. "12-12-12 The Concert for Sandy Relief," Various Artists
2. "Unorthodox Jukebox," Bruno Mars
3. "Jesus Piece," Game
4. "Christmas," Michael Buble

5. "Glee: The Music, The Christmas Album, Vol. 3," Glee Cast
6. "Red," Taylor Swift
7. "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)," Howard Shore
8. "O.N.I.F.C.," Wiz Khalifa
9. "The Lumineers," The Lumineers
10. "Babel," Mumford & Sons

The top iPhone and iPad apps on App Store for the week ending Dec. 17, 2012:

TOP PAID IPHONE APPS

1. Angry Birds Star Wars (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
2. WhatsApp Messenger (WhatsApp Inc.)
3. Block Ops (Rory Harvey)
4. Toca Hair Salon 2 (Toca Boca AB)
5. Bloons TD 5 (Ninja Kiwi)
6. Minecraft - Pocket Edition (Mojang)
7. Grand Theft Auto: Vice City (Rockstar Games)

8. Bad Piggies (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
9. 1Password (AgileBits Inc.)
10. Scribblenauts Remix (Warner Bros.)

TOP FREE IPHONE APPS

1. Google Maps (Google, Inc.)
2. Fun Run - Multiplayer Race (dirtyBit)
3. YouTube (Google, Inc.)
4. Angry Birds Star Wars Free (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
5. Elf Yourself by OfficeMax (Magic Mirror LLC)
6. Snapchat (Snapchat, Inc.)
7. Interlocked (Armor Games Inc.)
8. Split Pic - Clone Yourself (Aaron Ray)
9. Find My iPhone (Apple)
10. Kick the Boss 2 (Game Hive Corp.)

TOP PAID IPAD APPS

1. Angry Birds Star Wars HD (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
2. The Room (Fireproof Games)
3. Toca Hair Salon 2 (Toca

- Boca AB)
4. Bad Piggies HD (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
5. Monsters, Inc. Run (Disney)
6. Minecraft - Pocket Edition (Mojang)
7. Grand Theft Auto: Vice City (Rockstar Games)
8. Angry Birds HD (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
9. Bloons TD 5 HD (Ninja Kiwi)
10. Block Ops (Rory Harvey)

TOP FREE IPAD APPS

1. YouTube (Google, Inc.)
2. Angry Birds Star Wars HD Free (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
3. Google Maps (Google, Inc.)
4. Respawnables (Zynga)
5. Paper by FiftyThree (FiftyThree, Inc.)
6. Elf Yourself by OfficeMax (Magic Mirror LLC)
7. Skype for iPad (Skype Communications S.a.r.l)
8. Smash Cops Heat (Hutch)
9. iBooks (Apple)
10. Talking Santa for iPad HD (Out Fit 7 Ltd.)

Cassadee Pope wins Season 3 of 'The Voice'

NEW YORK (AP)—Cassadee Pope, who was country singer Blake Shelton's protege on the third season of NBC's "The Voice," has won the show's competition.

The 23-year-old singer is stepping out into a solo career after performing with a

band called Hey Monday. Her victory over Scottish native Terry McDermott and long-bearded Nicholas David was announced at the end of a two-hour show Tuesday.

"The Voice" has grown into a hit for NBC and was the key factor in the network's sur-

prising success this fall.

The show's status was affirmed by the stream of hitmakers who performed on the finale. They included Rihanna, Bruno Mars, the Killers, Smokey Robinson and Peter Frampton.

10-year-old Romeo Beckham new face of Burberry

LONDON (AP)—Burberry has decided to brand it like Beckham.

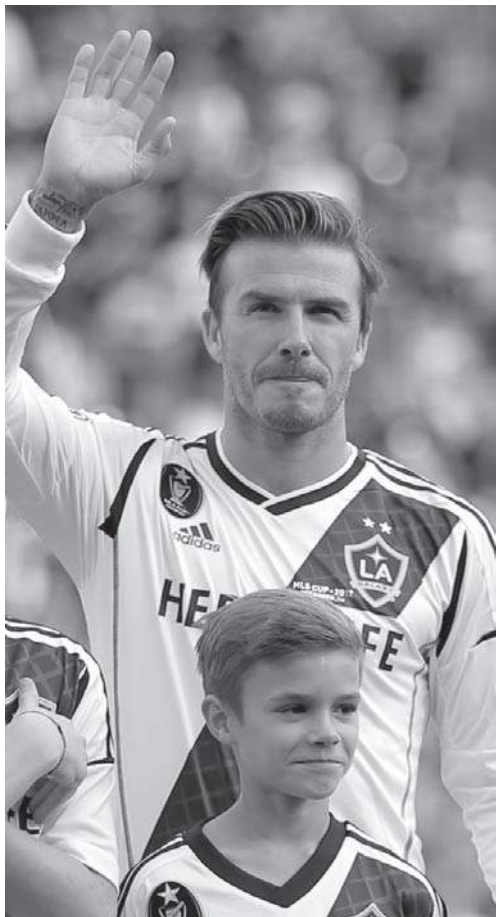
The London-based fashion house says Romeo Beckham—aged 10—is a new face of the clothing brand.

The son of soccer star David Beckham and former Spice Girl Victoria Beckham features in ads for Burberry's spring/summer 2013 collection.

Beckham wears one of Burberry's signature trench coats in the campaign, which also features models including Cara Delevigne, Edie Campbell and Alex Dunstan.

Burberry chief creative officer Christopher Bailey said Romeo had been "a joy to work with and really stole the show" at the photo shoot.

Last week, Romeo Beckham, his brothers Brooklyn and Cruz and father David all wore Burberry as they attended the premiere of the Spice Girls musical "Viva Forever!" in London.



AP
Los Angeles Galaxy's David Beckham, of England, waves as he stands with his son Romeo, in Carson, Calif., USA, in this file photo dated Saturday, Dec. 1, 2012.

Arbitrator: Beauty queen defamed pageant, owes \$5M

NEW YORK (AP)—A beauty queen who claimed this year's Miss USA contest was fixed has been ordered to pay the pageant organization \$5 million for defamation.

In a decision signed last week, an arbitrator found that the comments from Miss Pennsylvania USA Sheena Monnin were false, harmful and malicious. Monnin had alleged that the five finalists had been selected in advance of the pageant's live telecast.

The arbitrator, Theodore Katz, said Mon-

nin had two motives: "She was a disgruntled contestant who failed to make it past the preliminary competition" and she objected to the pageant's decision to allow transgender contestants. He wrote that the way the contest is judged "precludes any reasonable possibility that the judging was rigged."

Monnin, of Cranberry, Pennsylvania, resigned her state title after the pageant. Her allegations on Facebook and NBC's "Today" show cost the pageant a \$5 million fee from a potential 2013 sponsor, Katz said.

Monnin's lawyer, Richard Klineburger III, had no comment on the decision, his office said.

Katz said Monnin agreed to arbitrate any disputes when she became a Miss USA contestant, but he wrote in his decision that she and her lawyer didn't participate in the process and claimed they were not required to do so.

The winner of the Miss USA pageant, Rhode Island's Olivia Culpo, competes Wednesday in the Miss Universe pageant.

'Les Miz' star has family ties to Victor Hugo

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Helena Bonham Carter apparently shares more with Victor Hugo than just a role in the film based on his novel.

A study by genealogy website Ancestry.com reveals that Victor Hugo was a political colleague of a cousin of the 46-year-old actress. Carter stars as Madame Thenardier in the upcoming musical "Les Miserables." The film is an adaptation of the stage musical based on Hugo's 1862 book.

Ancestry.com says French financier and politician Achille Fould was Carter's first cousin five times removed. He served with Hugo in the post-revolutionary French government in the 1840s. Fould was minister of finance; Hugo was in the constitutional and legislative assembly.

Fould was a staunch supporter of Louis Napoleon III when he seized power in 1851, while Hugo declared him a traitor.

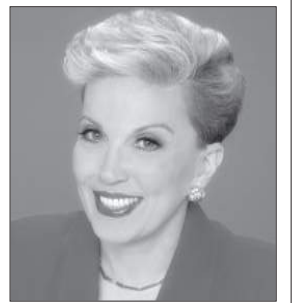
Carter's ancestor moved up in power and authority in the new regime. Hugo left the country and wrote scathing letters and poetry about the treachery of his former colleagues, including Fould.



Bonham

Holiday greetings get humbug response from offended aunt

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I confess, I can be a procrastinator. Last year, my holiday cards sat on my desk, blank and unaddressed until almost Easter, when it was far too late to send them. This year, I figured brevity was better than not getting them sent, so I had photo cards made and wrote short notes on each before mailing them.

Several of my relatives have now told me they felt "snubbed and offended" by my short notes. One aunt is particularly upset and said (via my mother) that my cards "clearly showed I don't care about people, and I should have written proper letters or sent nothing."

Was I wrong to think "some" card was better than no card at all? Also, how should I appease the aunt who is not speaking to me over this?

HOLIDAY CARD WRITER, AKRON, OHIO

DEAR HOLIDAY CARD WRITER: I don't think you were wrong. As to appeasing your aunt, who appears to be one of those individuals who hang onto imagined slights and delivers her messages via other people, perhaps you should consider leaving her off your Christmas card list from now on for fear of offending her further. Some people are just not "pleasable," and your aunt may be one of them.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My 20-year-old son, "P.J.," dresses in Army fatigues when he goes out. His clothes and boots -- including name patches -- make him look like a soldier. Because he seems so fascinated with the outfit, I asked him if he wants to consider joining the military. He said he's not interested, he just likes "the look."

I'm embarrassed when we're out together. Friends have commented, "I didn't know P.J. enlisted." My response is, "He's not in the military. He just likes to dress the part." When strangers have approached him and thanked him for his service and for protecting our country, he actually says, "You're welcome!"

When I try to talk to him about it, he gets angry and tells me to mind my own business. I feel he's representing himself as someone he's not. He does have a job. He buys his military gear online and at military shops.

How am I supposed to respond when people ask me obvious questions? Isn't it illegal to dress in Army attire when you're not affiliated with the military?

MOM OF A CIVILIAN IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR MOM: I can see why you are embarrassed. You should be. What your son is doing may not be illegal, but it IS dishonest.

When you are asked if he is in the military, you should continue to tell the truth. Because your son doesn't set people straight when he is thanked for his service, what he's doing is disrespectful, unethical and unfair to anyone who actually HAS served.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I live in a small rural town with lots of nice neighbors. During the holidays, I receive a variety of delicious homemade gifts—jams, cookies, breads and other specialties.

I am careful about my diet and consume no white flour or sugar. This means I must thank the person for the gifts, then figure out what to do with them. I hate throwing them out, and I don't know how to stop the practice. What's the best way to handle this annual dilemma?

UNSURE IN NEW ENGLAND

DEAR UNSURE: If you work, consider bringing the goodies with you and sharing them with your co-workers. Or, donate them to a shelter or senior center where they might be enjoyed and appreciated.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Spanish botched fresco artist sells work on eBay

MADRID (AP)—A painting by the 80-year-old Spanish artist who became famous for her botched restoration of a Christ fresco in a small-town church has fetched €1,080 (\$1,421) on eBay. The closing price Tuesday for Celia Gimenez's oil painting "Las Bodegas de Borja" ("Borja's Wine Cellar") more than tripled its starting price after 52 bids. Gimenez said the proceeds will to the Catholic charity organization Caritas. Gimenez became a sensation in August when pictures spread on the Internet of an "Ecce Homo" ("Behold the Man") mural in the town of Borja that she disfigured while trying to restore it. Twitter users redubbed it "Ecce Mono" ("Behold the Monkey"). The painting has since become a tourist attraction and the image has been used on T-shirts and wine labels.

Queen Elizabeth II attends UK Cabinet meeting

LONDON (AP)—Queen Elizabeth II sat in on a Cabinet meeting Tuesday for the first time, taking a seat between British Prime Minister David Cameron and Foreign Sec-

retary William Hague to observe the weekly discussion of government business. Her visit is believed to be the first time a sitting monarch has attended a Cabinet meeting in at least 100 years. Cabinet members presented her with a gift of 60 placemats in honor of her Diamond Jubilee. The government said the queen attended Tuesday's meeting as an observer—not as a contributor—in honor of her 60 years on the throne. But her visit has raised some eyebrows for appearing to blur the traditional line between government and monarchy. As head of state, the queen performs some ceremonial and formal duties related to government but must remain neutral on political matters.

'Scarface' actor arrested on suspended license

MIAMI (AP)—"Scarface" actor Steven Bauer has been arrested in the Miami area, accused of driving with a suspended license. The 52-year-old Bauer's real name is Steven Ernest Echevarria and he was booked into the Miami-Dade County Jail early Tuesday morning. It was not immediately known if he has an attorney. His arrest report shows Bauer was stopped in Sweetwater for an improper left turn late Monday night. He

was given a warning, but the officer ran his driver's license and found an open 12-year-old warrant. Bauer played Manny Ribera in the 1983 movie "Scarface" starring Al Pacino. Bauer also starred on the bilingual PBS show "Qué Pasa, USA." He played the teenage son of a Cuban exile family in Miami from 1977 to 1979.

Pentagon investigating top intelligence official

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Pentagon says its top intelligence official, who has been mentioned as a possible candidate to be the next CIA director, is under investigation in connection with information he provided to makers of a movie about the raid that killed Osama bin Laden. Pentagon press secretary George Little said Tuesday evening that the investigation of Michael Vickers is being conducted by the Pentagon's inspector general. Vickers is the undersecretary of defense for intelligence. Little said Vickers only provided unclassified information to the makers of the movie "Zero Dark Thirty," and that the session was arranged in July 2011 by the Pentagon's office of public affairs. Little said Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has full confidence in Vickers.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

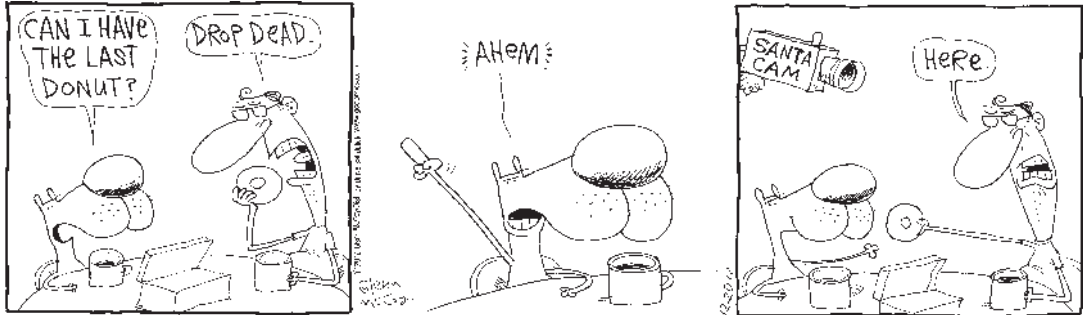
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Winter woe
- 4 Movie fragment
- 8 Restaurant employee
- 12 Deteriorate
- 13 Stash
- 14 Head light?
- 15 Formed rust
- 17 Too
- 18 Felon's flight
- 19 Tasted
- 21 Miss Muffet's bugaboo
- 24 Prune
- 25 Candy in a dispenser
- 26 Deli buy
- 28 Rid of frost
- 32 Sandwich cookie
- 34 Yuletide quaff
- 36 Crucial time
- 37 Re ebb and flow

DOWN

- 1 To and
- 2 Bagel topping
- 3 Worked with
- 4 Doorbells, often
- 5 Claiborne of fashion
- 6 Mid-month date
- 7 Accelerator, e.g.
- 8 In need of balm, maybe
- 9 Corridor
- 10 Differently
- 11 Comestibles
- 16 Father
- 20 Chic, in the '60s
- 21 Location
- 22 Actress Gilpin
- 23 Take off
- 27 Violinist's need
- 29 Put on a pedestal
- 30 Chaplin prop
- 31 Spud's buds
- 33 U-shaped part of a rowboat
- 35 Petrol
- 38 Hawaiian souvenir
- 40 Parts of an act
- 43 Big glitch
- 45 — Baba
- 46 Teeny bit
- 47 Piece of info on an invitation
- 48 Great Lake
- 49 Ids' counterparts
- 53 Raw rock
- 54 Before
- 55 Beavers' construct

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 12-20

OWN SAND AFRO
SEE OBOE GLAP
LEA PARAMOUNT
OPRAH FOR
MICA ANGST
PARASOLS SOLE
ERA TOTAL BAR
AGNE PARADIGM
SHIRT RIDE
SIR DECOR
PARACHUTE ALE
ALOI EWIE PIE
RITZ APES SOD

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jonah Hill, 29; David Cook, 30; Nicole de Boer, 42; Joel Gretsch, 49.

Happy Birthday: Don't wait for things to come to you or for others to do things for you. It's important to be open and receptive. Learning will play an important role in your life and the direction you take from this point forward. Emotions must be considered. Your numbers are 4, 9, 17, 24, 31, 38, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't jump to conclusions. Put the past behind you and look to the future with optimism. You'll learn from a personal experience you encounter with someone of interest. A financial gain will help you invest in your skills and endeavors. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't look at your failures—enjoy your successes. A serious outlook is fine, but not when you should be enjoying the lighter side of life with people who normally only get to see you at work. Get year-end paperwork out of the way. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Relationships are key to your future. Ask for favors or offer something that will secure a relationship with someone special. A problem with deception must be brought out into the open before you can move on. Moderation will be required. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let change cause emotional upset. Do your best to finish what you start and to take care of any responsibilities you've been given. ★★★

You will reap the rewards and be given the time you need to devote to home and family. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Personal responsibilities must be dealt with before you can relax and enjoy the end-of-the-year festivities. A close relationship with someone will be enhanced. Travel plans or spending time doing something out of the ordinary will bring you pleasure. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Face domestic and family challenges in a practical manner. Judging others will cause resentment. A social event or shopping will cost you more than you anticipate. Don't count on a contract unless you have it signed, sealed and delivered. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Please those around you and you will open up new opportunities presented to you by a friend, relative or someone who is looking for a partnership. Traveling will lead to conversations with extraordinary people. Love is in the stars. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Getting back to your roots may be interesting, but don't believe everything an old friend tells you. Rely on your intuition to guide you when dealing with family and to lead you in a direction that will secure your position. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Create change if you are bored or unhappy in your current situation. A new year is about to begin and preparing to wipe your slate clean and start anew will bring you greater vitality and a chance to do things differently. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may want to help those less fortunate, but do so for the right reason. Offering time, a service or suggestions will make a difference. An impulsive decision or move will cause emotional stress and can hurt your reputation. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Spend time preparing for the upcoming year. Strategize and figure out your best move. Focusing on what you can do to improve your chance of getting ahead personally or professionally will lead to a plan that will help build your confidence. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Too much of everything will be your downfall. Keep things simple and stick close to home. Don't be fooled by what others say. Avoid a fast-talking sales pitch, suggestions or offers that are too good to be true. Self-deception is apparent. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You are determined, ambitious and changeable. You are curious and colorful.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	1	6	8	5	7	2	3	4
4	7	5	2	3	9	6	8	1
8	3	2	6	4	1	9	7	5
1	6	7	4	2	3	8	5	9
2	8	9	7	1	5	3	4	6
3	5	4	9	6	8	1	2	7
6	4	8	1	7	2	5	9	3
5	9	1	3	8	4	7	6	2
7	2	3	5	9	6	4	1	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CROCHETING Solution: 10 letters

P S E P Y T M O T I F S I L K
A D H B O E E R D S D D O O P
T K N O T L F S L E H N O P A
T L L A B M I I E O T E U O R
E N L E H B P N L H V S L O W
R N R O D O Y D K E C E I L R
N T O O O W F Y S N T T R W M
S K Y B C R A A S T I O I R T
C N M R E P R R U E I T O T T
A A E N T T O N D Y I F F S
B I C T I S I P C I E L K S K
L H R S S S E N T E A S I I
E A A I I A A P R T A N C O P
S N C A S F F F A B R I C S D
K S N E C H A I N T H R E A D

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Artisan, Ball, Bambo, Basket, Bone, Cables, Chain, Dollies, Edwardian, Fabrics, Fancy, Fasten, Filet, Fits, Flat, Freeform, Hand, Hobby, Hook, Irish, Knot, Lace, Link, Loop, Metal, Motifs, Old French, Over, Patterns, Popcorn, Round, Scissors, Shell, Silk, Skip, Slip, Stitches, Tapestry, Thread, Tool, Totes, Treble, Tunisian, Twisted, Types, Wood, Wrap, Yarn

Yesterday's Answer: Musical

Under THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD Volume 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 or 36 send \$5.95; 37 send \$9.95; 38 send \$14.95; 39 send \$19.95; 40 send \$24.95; 41 send \$29.95; 42 send \$34.95; 43 send \$39.95; 44 send \$44.95; 45 send \$49.95; 46 send \$54.95; 47 send \$59.95; 48 send \$64.95; 49 send \$69.95; 50 send \$74.95; 51 send \$79.95; 52 send \$84.95; 53 send \$89.95; 54 send \$94.95; 55 send \$99.95; 56 send \$104.95; 57 send \$109.95; 58 send \$114.95; 59 send \$119.95; 60 send \$124.95; 61 send \$129.95; 62 send \$134.95; 63 send \$139.95; 64 send \$144.95; 65 send \$149.95; 66 send \$154.95; 67 send \$159.95; 68 send \$164.95; 69 send \$169.95; 70 send \$174.95; 71 send \$179.95; 72 send \$184.95; 73 send \$189.95; 74 send \$194.95; 75 send \$199.95; 76 send \$204.95; 77 send \$209.95; 78 send \$214.95; 79 send \$219.95; 80 send \$224.95; 81 send \$229.95; 82 send \$234.95; 83 send \$239.95; 84 send \$244.95; 85 send \$249.95; 86 send \$254.95; 87 send \$259.95; 88 send \$264.95; 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Additional requirements: All applicants must be of good health and good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to provide current police and court clearance, must be able to obtain health certificate, must have a reliable transportation and must agree to a drug test.

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Wade, James carry Heat past Timberwolves, 103-92



MIAMI (AP)—The Miami Heat were outrebounded by 28, matching the second-largest margin in team history. They finished with only 24 boards, matching the second-lowest total in any game over the franchise's quarter-century of existence.

Somehow, none of that mattered.

Dwyane Wade scored 24 points, LeBron James added 22 points and 11 assists and the Heat survived a strangely one-sided night on the glass to beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 103-92 on Tuesday night—becoming the first team since 1994 to be outrebounded by such a wide margin and still win, according to STATS LLC.

"I don't know how many times I've seen that, where you get doubled up on the rebounding and still escape with the win," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "That's a tough team. They're unique. Relentless on the glass. There's not many teams like them."

The final rebounding margin: Minnesota 52, Miami 24.

Chris Bosh scored 15 points and Mario Chalmers added 12 for the Heat, who gave up 21 of the game's first 24 rebounds.

Andrei Kirilenko scored 22 for Minnesota, which played without guard Ricky Rubio, who's being eased back after recovering from knee surgery. The Timberwolves dropped their second straight. Kevin Love finished with 11 points and 18 rebounds, and Nikola Pekovic had an 18-point, 12-rebound effort for the Timberwolves.

"We were pretty active. What we take away from it is we've got to be more physical," Love said. "I'm not saying we're soft but we definitely need to be more physical. And we are in stretches."

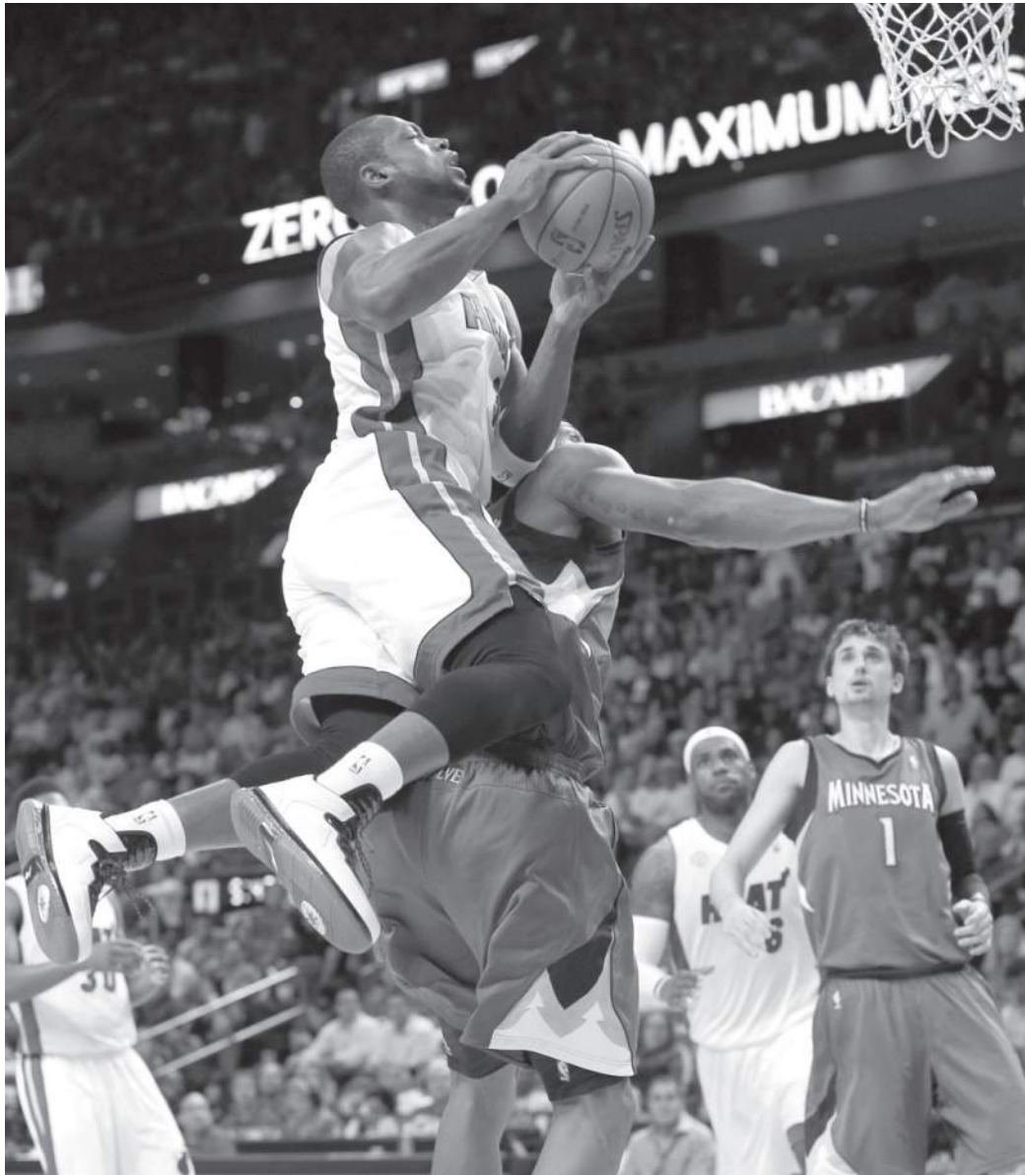
James topped the 20-point mark for the 27th straight regular-season game and 43rd straight overall.

"We're getting better every night," James said.

A 24-9 run in the second half was the deciding blow for Miami, with James leading the way, getting 11 of those points and assisting on three other scores during the spurt. James had a pair of 3-pointers during the run, including one that put Miami up by 10 late in the third, and then he capped it with a three-point play after connecting on a running jumper with 10:26 left.

In eight minutes, what was a 63-62 deficit became an 86-72 Miami lead.

And when James took an alley-oop from Ray Allen for a dunk in transition with 7:36 left, the lead was 16—then Miami's largest—and the reigning NBA MVP's streak of 20-point games was extended as well. On the next Miami possession, James found Shane Battier for a 3-pointer along the left wing.



Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade, foreground, is fouled by Minnesota Timberwolves' Dante Cunningham as Wade goes to the basket during the half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2012, in Miami.

The lead was 97-78 with 7:09 left, and James walked back to the Heat bench pumping his right fist with satisfied emphasis.

"That's an unbelievable rebounding team," Wade said. "We made up for it with our energy."

That, and 14 blocks, tied for fourth-most in Heat history. Miami blocked 15 shots on three other occasions.

Wade—generously listed at 6-foot-4—blocked a two-handed dunk try by the 6-10 Love at the rim to spark one second-quarter burst, and also registered a block against the 6-11 Pekovic later in the period.

Wade had a pair of spectacular plays at the rim in the second as well, and he set Chalmers up for a 3-pointer with 0.4 seconds left in the half to send Miami into the break with a 52-49 edge.

It was the fifth straight time the Heat have beaten the Timberwolves. The last time Minnesota beat Miami was Feb. 23, 2010—not all that long ago in real time but eons ago in Heat time, considering none of the five players in the starting lineup for that loss were even on last season's championship team, much less on the current roster.

Luke Ridnour scored 13 and JJ Barea added 10 for Minnesota.

"I like the way our guys battled," Timberwolves coach Rick Adelman said. "We just have to respond."

Minnesota's frontcourt of Kirilenko, Love and Pekovic knew it had a size advantage, but

what it managed on the glass in the early going was ridiculous. Minnesota's rebounding edge was 13-2 after nine minutes—Love already had seven—and 18-3 after the first quarter.

The Timberwolves had 17 second-chance points in the first quarter alone, after coming into the night averaging 15 per game all season.

Lakers 101, Bobcats 100

In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored four of his 30 points in the final 1:26 and the Lakers overcame an 18-point third-quarter deficit to hand Charlotte its 12th straight loss.

Jodie Meeks and Metta World Peace each had 17 points for the Lakers, who won their third straight to match their longest winning streak of the season. Pau Gasol, back after missing eight games with tendinitis in both knees, had 10 points and nine rebounds in 30 minutes and shot 3 for 10.

World Peace was not in the starting lineup for the first time after starting the first 25 games. Reserve center Jordan Hill missed his third straight game because of back spasms.

Kemba Walker led Charlotte with 28 points, reserve Ramon Sessions added 20 and Gerald Henderson had 19. Byron Mullens finished with 17 rebounds and 13 points.

Hawks 100, Wizards 95, OT

In Washington, Lou Williams

scored a season-high 24 points and Josh Smith had 17 points and 13 rebounds to lead Atlanta past Washington in overtime.

Atlanta (15-7) has won all three meetings with the Wizards (3-19) this season.

After Washington took a 93-92 lead on a jumper by Earl Barron with 3:05 to play in overtime, the Hawks scored six straight points—capped by DeShawn Stevenson's 3-pointer—to go up five with 1:29 to play.

Stevenson and Al Horford each made 1 of 2 free throws, and then Jordan Crawford, who had a triple-double with 27 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists, hit a jumper with 48 seconds left to pull Washington to 98-95.

Nene had a jumper blocked by Smith with 9 seconds to play, and Kyle Korver made two free throws to cap the scoring.

Jazz 92, Nets 90

In New York, Mo Williams scored 19 points, Al Jefferson had 16 points and 11 rebounds, and Utah held on to beat Brooklyn.

Utah turned it over on two inbounds passes in the final 31 seconds, the last leading to a Nets steal. They pushed it up and got a potential go-ahead 3-pointer from Gerald Wallace that missed. The Jazz escaped when Reggie Evans' follow shot was no good as time expired.

Derrick Favors added 13 points against his former franchise for the Jazz, who improved to just 5-10 on the road.

Joe Johnson scored 21 points for the Nets, who led for most

of the game and by as many as 13 points before dropping their second straight.

Bulls 100, Celtics 89

In Chicago, Luol Deng and Carlos Boozer scored 21 points apiece, Joakim Noah had a triple-double for Chicago.

Noah had 11 points, 13 rebounds and a career high-tying 10 assists for his second career triple-double, and the Bulls evened a 101-95 home loss to Boston on Nov. 12.

Nate Robinson scored 18 points for Chicago and keyed a fourth-quarter surge that put the game out of reach.

Rajon Rondo led the Celtics with 26 points and eight assists. Paul Pierce added 16 points. Boston has lost a season-high three straight games, all on the road.

The Bulls improved to 4-2 in the second of back-to-back games this season. Chicago bounced back from a loss at Memphis on Monday, putting up their lowest point total in five seasons.

Raptors 113, Cavaliers 99

In Cleveland, Jose Calderon scored a season-high 23 points, and Toronto won on the road for the second time this season.

The Raptors snapped an 11-game skid on the road, winning away from home for the first time since Nov. 13 when they beat Indiana. Toronto, which is 2-14 on the road, has also won three in a row for the first time this season.

Alan Anderson hit three 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and finished with 18 points. Amir Johnson scored 17 points and DeMar DeRozan added 16.

Kyrie Irving, coming off a career-high 41 points Saturday, scored 23 points for Cleveland. The reigning rookie of the year, currently playing with a broken bone in his jaw, is wearing a protective mask.

Bucks 98, Pacers 93

In Milwaukee, Brandon Jennings scored 13 of his 34 points in the fourth quarter and Monta Ellis had 19 points, leading Milwaukee past Indiana.

Jennings scored four straight points midway through the fourth quarter to give the Bucks an 89-85 lead with 4:10 remaining.

Paul George drove the lane for Indiana for a dunk to cut the lead to two, but Jennings responded with a 3-pointer from the top of the key with 3:30 remaining to give the Bucks a 92-87 lead.

David West hit one of two free throws, but Mike Dunleavy rebounded his own miss and scored to give Milwaukee a 94-88 lead with 1:35 remaining.

George Hill hit a 3-pointer to cut the lead to 94-91 with 1:17 remaining. Jennings then drove the lane and scored with 1 minute left to boost the lead to 96-91 and the Bucks held

on for the win.

Mavericks 107, 76ers 100

In Dallas, O.J. Mayo scored 26 points, Chris Kaman added 20 and Dallas snapped a three-game losing streak.

Mayo and Kaman scored 17 of Dallas' last 19 points to help the Mavericks win their seventh straight at home against the 76ers.

Dorell Wright scored 25 points and Spencer Hawes had 18 for the 76ers, who lost their fourth straight game. Philadelphia point guard Jrue Holiday, the team's leading scorer at nearly 19 points per game, missed his third straight game with a sprained left foot.

Dallas point guard Derek Fisher left the game with 6:50 left in the first quarter with a strained right knee and did not return. Fisher, who wasn't expected to play because of the flu, went down to the ground after having his shot blocked by Evan Turner. The 17th-year guard walked slowly to the locker room.

Nuggets 112, Spurs 106

In Denver, Danilo Gallinari scored a season-high 28 points and outplayed Tim Duncan down the stretch as Denver beat San Antonio.

Duncan had 31 points—also a season high—to go along with 18 rebounds for the Spurs, who closed a 15-point lead to three with 3:38 left before the Nuggets closed it out for their third straight win.

Manu Ginobili scored 16 points for the Spurs, who have lost four of their last five.

San Antonio trailed 98-83 before charging back. Patty Mills hit two 3-pointers, Duncan scored eight points and Tony Parker hit a 3 to pull the Spurs to 105-102.

Two free throws by Duncan and a basket by Ginobili made it 110-106 with 53 seconds left. A turnover by Denver gave the Spurs a chance to get closer but they missed three straight 3-pointers in the final 24 seconds.

Warriors 103, Hornets 96

In Oakland, Calif., David Lee had 26 points and nine rebounds, Klay Thompson finished with 19 points and the Warriors brought their surprising road run home with a victory over the struggling New Orleans Hornets.

After going 6-1 on the season's longest road stretch, the Warriors built a 14-point lead in the second quarter and held off the Hornets late. Golden State (17-8) is off to its best start since the 1991-92 season, when the team began 21-8.

Ryan Anderson scored 28 points off the bench and Anthony Davis had 15 points and 16 rebounds in his first start in a month for the Hornets, who lost their eighth straight and are the worst team in the Western Conference with a 5-19 record.

Jets bench Sanchez, will start McElroy vs Chargers



NEW YORK (AP)—Mark Sanchez is no longer the New York Jets' franchise quarterback.

He might not even be the backup.

Rex Ryan decided to bench Sanchez on Tuesday in favor of Greg McElroy after the fourth-year quarterback had another miserable performance in a 14-10 loss at Tennessee on Monday night that eliminated New York from playoff contention.

"I think it's best for our team, and for this game," Ryan said during a conference call.

So, it'll be McElroy under center for his first NFL start when the Jets (6-8) play the San Diego Chargers at home Sunday. Ryan hasn't decided whether Sanchez or Tim Tebow—listed as the No. 2 quarterback—will be the backup.

While Sanchez blew the second chance Ryan gave him a few weeks ago, Tebow was leapfrogged by a third-stringer, fueling speculation that the team has little confidence in him as a quarterback.

"I have to look at what I think is the best for the team and not necessarily the individual," Ryan said. "I'll say this about Tim and I've always said it: I know he wants to help this team be successful in the worst way and there's no doubt about that."

Sanchez threw four interceptions Monday night and wasn't able to handle a low snap with the game on the line, ending the Jets' hopes to get back into the postseason.

Things got worse after the game for Sanchez, who received a series of death threats from one disgruntled fan on Twitter. League spokesman Greg Aiello said the NFL's security staff was aware of the man's threats and was working with the Jets to assist on the matter. The team declined com-



New York Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez (6) is brought down by Tennessee Titans defensive end Kamerion Wimbley (95) in the second quarter of an NFL football game, Monday, Dec. 17, 2012, in Nashville, Tenn.

ment through a spokesman.

Ryan said after the loss that he wasn't ready to decide who would start against the Chargers, but told Sanchez he would be making a change at quarterback by going with either McElroy or Tebow.

"He respected my decision," Ryan said. "That's not easy, that's for sure."

After talking to his staff and members of the organization Tuesday, Ryan chose McElroy.

"This is my opinion, and I do believe that it's best for our team that Greg is our quarterback," Ryan insisted. "I'm the guy that's making this decision. Every decision I make is based on what I believe is the best decision for the team."

But Ryan was vague in his answers to why he selected McElroy above Tebow, choosing after being asked several times to not

go into detail about what specifically factored into the decision.

"I can answer this question a million ways, frontward, backward, sideways, anything else," Ryan said. "It's my decision and I based it on a gut feeling or whatever."

McElroy, a seventh-round pick last year out of Alabama, helped lead the Jets to a 7-6 win over Arizona on Dec. 2 when Ryan pulled Sanchez from that game late in the third quarter. McElroy had modest numbers—5 of 7 for 29 yards—but threw for the only touchdown of the game, and nearly led another scoring drive as the Jets ran out the clock.

Ryan decided to stick with Sanchez after that game, saying that the one-time face of the franchise gave the Jets their best chance at winning as they remained in the playoff hunt.

But Sanchez struggled in a 17-10 win over Jacksonville and again even more in the loss to Tennessee. McElroy, who gave the Jets a huge spark in his first NFL action, was inactive for both games. That hurt New York on Monday night when Ryan was unable to turn to McElroy since he was not in uniform for the game. Instead, Ryan went to Tebow for one series—which had been part of the game plan—but it was unproductive and Sanchez came back in for the next offensive possession.

Sanchez leads the league with 24 turnovers, including 17 interceptions, and has turned the ball over 50 times since the start of last season. His future with the team is uncertain because he signed a contract extension with New York in March that included \$8.25 million in guaranteed

money for next season.

Ryan would not commit to Sanchez beyond this season, and wouldn't discuss what the depth chart will look like.

"We have two games left and that's where my focus is going to be," he said. "What's past that will be determined later."

Sanchez was regularly booed during home games this season, falling out of favor with the fans who were excited when the Jets traded up to take him with the fifth overall pick in the 2009 draft.

"Has he had better days than (Monday night)? Absolutely," Ryan said.

There certainly were some good moments for the former Southern California star, particularly in helping lead New York to the AFC championship game in each of his first two seasons, but he failed to take the next

step in his development.

While his frequent mistakes in reading defenses and miscalculating throws are a huge reason for his struggles, Sanchez also wasn't helped by a constantly changing cast around him. Several of the team's top offensive players—Thomas Jones, Leon Washington, Jericho Cotchery, Brad Smith, LaDainian Tomlinson, Plaxico Burress, Alan Faneca and Damien Woody—have all been released, traded or allowed to become free agents since Sanchez's rookie season. He is also working with his second offensive coordinator in Tony Sparano after an up-and-down three seasons with Brian Schottenheimer.

Tebow, acquired from Denver in March, has had a minor role in the offense after being expected to play a major part. He is recovering from two broken ribs that sidelined him for three games, but returned Monday night and had little impact. It would seem unlikely that Tebow, who helped lead the Broncos to the playoffs last season, will be back next season.

When Tebow arrived in New York, he often said he was "excited to be a Jet," but there's little doubt that he no longer feels that way. He has done his best to hide his frustration throughout the season, especially when the wildcat-style offense was talked up by Ryan and Sparano as a highlight of the offense.

Tebow has instead just been a spare part on an offense that ranks 30th in the NFL. He is 6 of 8 passing for 39 yards, and has run 32 times for 102 yards—playing a more significant role as the personal punt protector on special teams.

"People can speculate anything they want," Ryan said. Obviously, as a football team, we're 6-8 and nobody's happy about that and ultimately, I'm the one accountable."

Investigation into Chiefs LB killing complete

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Jovan Belcher was apparently worried he would lose his baby and money to his longtime girlfriend before fatally shooting her and killing himself, according to newly released police reports.

Belcher also complained about Kasandra Perkins, the mother of the couple's 3-month-old daughter, in conversations and text messages sent to a woman he was dating on the side, the reports show.

In one text message sent in late October or early November, Belcher wrote he "would shoot" Perkins "if she didn't leave him alone." The girlfriend told police that Belcher said "his child's mother threatened to take all his money and his child if they split up" and "knew exactly how to press his buttons and make him angry."

Belcher shot Perkins multiple

times in their home on Dec. 1 and then drove to team headquarters, where he killed himself in front of his coach and general manager after telling them he "wasn't able to get enough help."

The Jackson County prosecutor's office reviewed the police reports, which first were obtained by The Kansas City Star, before closing the case Friday. It formally ruled the deaths of Belcher, 25, and Perkins, 22, a murder-suicide, prosecutor's office spokesman Mike Mansur said Tuesday.

The reports provide new details about the final days and hours leading to the tragedy.

The night before the killings, Belcher went to a club with the woman he was dating while Perkins attended a concert with her friends, the reports said. A friend of Perkins has told The Star that the couple argued around 1 a.m., about Perkins being out late, al-

though it wasn't clear whether the argument happened in person or on the phone. The police report, which doesn't mention this dispute, said that after Belcher kissed his girlfriend and she went inside her apartment, he fell asleep in his car.

About two hours later, police roused Belcher after someone called 911 to report his idling Bentley as suspicious. The report said Belcher was legally parked and didn't smell of alcohol, but officers asked if he could stay inside the apartment for the night.

Belcher tried to call the girlfriend, but she didn't discover the missed calls until the next morning and didn't hear him at her door. Two women who were up late invited Belcher to wait inside their apartment after he explained his plight. They said Belcher "appeared to be intoxicated" but "seemed to be in

good spirits . laughing, joking."

After taking him to a gas station to buy a sports drink, they gave him a pillow and blanket and he slept on the couch for a couple hours, leaving at 6:45 a.m. so he could make it to a team meeting planned for later that morning.

Upon arriving at the home he shared with Perkins, the couple began arguing over "one or both of them going out as in to a club or partying," said Belcher's mother, Cheryl Shepherd, who had moved in with them about two weeks earlier.

When Shepherd heard multiple gunshots, she ran to the bedroom and saw Belcher kneeling next to Perkins' body, saying he was sorry. After kissing Perkins, his baby daughter and his mother, Belcher drove to Arrowhead Stadium, breaking off his Bentley's rear-view mirror on the way, the police report said.

Chiefs general manager Scott

Pioli saw Belcher holding a gun to his head and jumped out of his vehicle so he could find out what was happening.

"I've done a bad thing to my girlfriend already," Belcher told Pioli, according to the report, adding that he wanted to talk with Chiefs coach Romeo Crennel and defensive coordinator Gary Gibbs.

When Crennel arrived, Belcher said, "You know that I've been having some major problems at home and with my girlfriend. I need help! I wasn't able to get enough help. I appreciate everything you all have done for me with trying to help ... but it wasn't enough. I have hurt my girl already and I can't go back now."

Belcher asked that Pioli and team owner Clark Hurt take care of his daughter. The Chiefs staff pleaded with Belcher to put down his gun, but he only lowered it to load a round. "You're taking the easy way out!" Crennel told Belcher, according to the report.

As a police officer approached, Belcher knelt behind a vehicle, saying, "Guys, I have to do this. ... I got to go, can't be here and take care of my daughter." He made the sign of the cross on his chest and fired a bullet into his head, the report said.

Crennel said Belcher had blamed Perkins for missing a team meeting a few weeks earlier, saying he had to watch the baby after Perkins didn't come home the night before. Crennel said he thought the couple had "trust issues" and Perkins expected "a better life" with an NFL player.

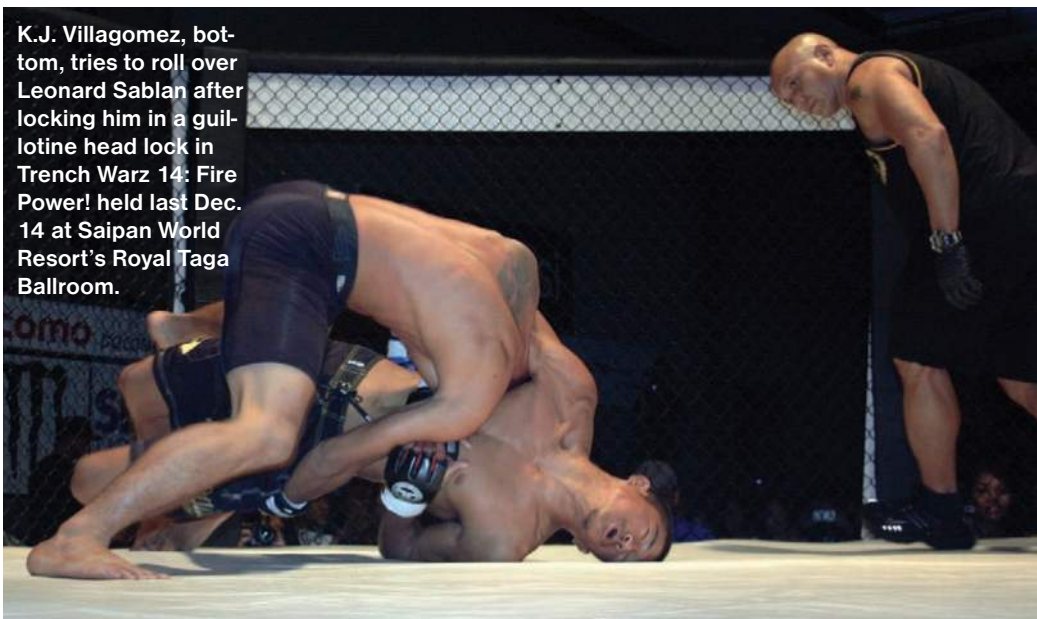
Crennel said Belcher, whose base salary this season was more than \$1.9 million, "didn't live outside his means." He said he thought Belcher was talking to an attorney about getting custody of his daughter.

Shepherd, Belcher's mother, attributed the couple's relationship problems to "financial issues associated with Perkins' spending habits."

Trench Warz: Fire Power

PHOTOS By
WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

K.J. Villagomez, bottom, tries to roll over Leonard Sablan after locking him in a guillotine head lock in Trench Warz 14: Fire Power! held last Dec. 14 at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom.



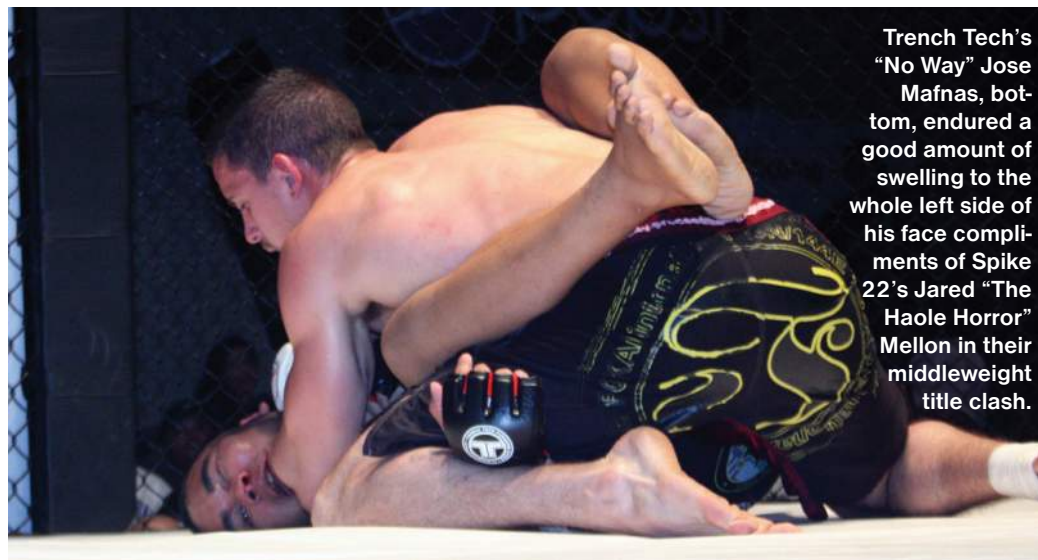
Tinian's Rino Reyes applies the finishing touches to his dominating victory over L.J. "Mak'Po" George.



Trench Tech Purebred's Mark "The Dark" Nuique tries to catch Team Countershot's Josh "The Hedgehog" Alvarez in an arm bar during their bantamweight title match.



Trench Tech's "No Way" Jose Mafnas, bottom, endured a good amount of swelling to the whole left side of his face compliments of Spike 22's Jared "The Haole Horror" Mellon in their middleweight title clash.



Right, Trench Tech's Mylo "Bam-Bam" Lassiter, left, rears back for a big left straight during the heavy-weight title feature against Guam Muay Thai's Marquis Navarro.



Far right, countershot MMA's Josh The Hedgehog Alvarez has his hand raised after being declared Trench Tech's new bantamweight champ.



A.J. Aldan, right, and Ferick Aguon go at it in their K-1 Exhibition debut appearances.



One of the Ultimate Fighter Championship's newest additions, The Arena's Jon "Super Saiyan" Tuck (7-0), gets interviewed by master of ceremonies L.J. Castro.



Referee Keith Nabors, left, steps in as Trench Tech Purebred's Josh "Chaos" Duenas, top, batters Tiyan Tough Walkers' Dylan Pablo with some vicious ground-and-pound blows in their flyweight title bout.



**Wade, James
carry Heat past
Timberwolves,
103-92**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Jets bench
Sanchez,
will start
McElroy vs
Chargers**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lee still unbeaten in New Zealand tourney



SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Carol Lee goes for a base-
line return during a local
tournament early this year
at the Pacific Islands Club
tennis court.

Carol Lee provided some spark to the CNMI's bleak performance in Day 2 of the 2012 Tennis Auckland Xmas Junior Tournament.

Lee swept her second day matches in the girls U12 singles to keep her quarterfinals bid alive and made up for the unremarkable performance of teammates Isabel Heras and Luther Lizama at the Manukau Tennis Centre in Auckland, New Zealand, yesterday.

The 11-year-old Lee did not drop a single set in Day 2 of the competition, shutting out Imo-



gen Renee Rodgers, 6-0, 6-0, in her first morning match, and then whipping Kendra Paea in the second game, 6-3, 6-1. The CNMI netter had earlier come from

a 6-1, 6-1 spanking of Jemima Mary Parkinson last Tuesday and the two victories yesterday boosted her chances for one of the two quarterfinals tickets in

See LEE on Page 26

Camacho, Aldan win December roll-offs



Camacho



Aldan

Diane Camacho and M.J. Aldan had the last say in Saipan Bowling Association's monthly tournaments after topping the December roll-offs held at the Capital Bowling Center.

Camacho, who was on a slump in the last eight monthly tournaments after clinching back-to-back victories, (Febru-

ary and March) ended the 2013 season on a winning note, as her four-game total of 695 pinfalls bested 11 other participants in the December Budweiser Queen of the Lanes roll-offs played last Sunday and Monday.

The three-time winner bowled only last Monday and surpassed the record of Sunday leader Gigi Zapanta (615 pinfalls).

See CAMACHO on Page 26

11 complete basketball coaching course



Eleven individuals finished the introduction to basketball and Level 1 coaching courses Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands vice president and veteran mentor Elias Rangamar conducted early this month.

The list includes John Joseph Nekaifes, Jeremy Alfred, Isaiah Wabol, Donavin Mendiola, Tanner Kenty, Rex Yabut, Ronald Olopai, Bruce Iglesias, Jesus Iguel, Beverly Igitol, and Peter Camacho. Rangamar awarded them certificates of completion in a brief ceremony last Monday night at the Oleai Sports Complex.

The BANMI official said ma-



SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands vice president Elias Rangamar, front row left, poses with participants of the basketball Level 1 coaching course during the awarding of certificates last Monday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

jority of the participants of the Intro to Basketball and Level 1 Coaching courses held on Dec. 5-6 and Dec. 10-14, respectively, at the Marianas High School Gymnasium, were youth. The Basketball 101 course lasted for eight hours, while the Level 1 coaching seminar was good for 19 hours.

"I am happy to see a lot of young coaches attending the courses. We need them, as some of our veteran coaches are already off-island or are not active anymore. Having young coaches certified and equipped with the right knowledge means there will be more players and teams getting into the sport,"

See 11 on Page 26



SAIPAN TRIBUNE
From left, Aitao Barcinas, Joe Villacrusis, Pete Iguel, Amy Sletten, and James Lee head to the finish line of last year's Christmas Island Relay.

Christmas Island Relay set for Dec. 30



Northern Marianas Athletics will have its season-ending event this Dec. 30, as it hosts the 31st Annual Christmas Island Relay.

The 13.7-mile race from the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio to the Last Command Post in Marpi, is open

for five-person teams and solo runners. Each member of the squad will alternately run after one mile and each team must have at least one U16 runner, a female, and one 40-and-above member.

Besides the open division in the five-person and solo categories, NMA will have **See CHRISTMAS on Page 26**